

Massive U.S. war fleet attacks Libyan people

BY FRED FELDMAN

In a carefully organized provocation, the U.S. government assembled the most massive array of naval power seen in the Mediterranean in recent history to launch an assault on the sovereign country of Libya.

On March 24 and 25, U.S. planes firing guided missiles bombarded the town of Sidra and sank several small Libyan patrol boats in the Gulf of Sidra.

Dozens of Libyan people were believed killed.

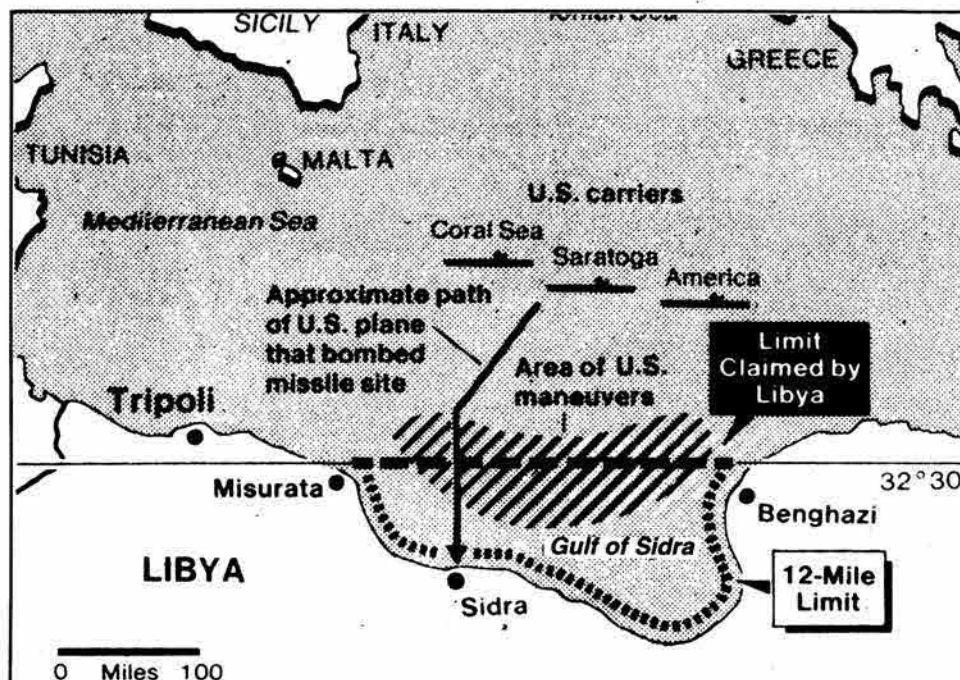
This brutal and bloody attack on Libya is an act of war. It is a clear threat by the U.S. rulers that naked military might will be used against all governments and peoples that Washington politically disagrees with — if it can get away with it.

This attack should be condemned by all opponents of U.S. aggression in the Middle East, Central America, and elsewhere. Emergency demonstrations and other public protests should be organized.

The Reagan administration is loudly threatening to launch more military attacks until the Libyan government is overthrown or ends its opposition to U.S. government policies.

There isn't the slightest justification for Washington's missile strikes against Libya.

To launch this attack, the U.S. government assembled a massive naval armada in the Mediterranean — enough to blow Libya off the face of the earth many times over. It included 3 aircraft carriers, 27 warships, 1 flagship, an estimated 6 to 12 nu-



clear submarines, 250 planes, 18,000 troops, and a vast array of torpedoes, missiles, and other weapons.

This terrorist force was mobilized against a country of about 3.5 million people, supposedly because its government says the Gulf of Sidra is part of its territorial waters!

The claim that this armada is guaranteeing "freedom of the seas" is a lie. Many of Washington's allies, including Canada and Iceland, have made comparable claims to

territorial waters without provoking acts of war by Washington. Far from defending the "freedom of the seas," U.S. forces imposed a virtual naval blockade against Libya in the gulf area.

Washington's imperialist allies generally backed the aggression, although the Italian government was mildly critical. Third World countries responded with outrage. The government of Ghana correctly explained that the hostilities were "the di-

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U.S. gov't steps up war on Nicaragua

BY HARRY RING

Using the hoax of a claimed Nicaraguan "invasion" of Honduras as the pretext, the White House moved to escalate U.S.-organized military aggression against Nicaragua.

While bewildered Honduran officials were still trying to figure out when and how their country had been invaded, Reagan used his presidential powers to bypass Congress and dispatch \$20 million in emergency military aid to Honduras. And U.S. helicopters, piloted by GIs, were ordered to ferry Honduran troops to the border area where a major base of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries — the *contras* — is located. It was in this area that the "invasion" supposedly occurred. This involves Honduran troops more directly in the U.S.-run war.

The invasion scam was designed to maximize congressional support for the contra war, as well as to justify more direct use of U.S. forces — including military advisers — in the campaign to topple the Sandinista government.

These are dangerous moves — for the people of Nicaragua and the people of this country as well.

Strong emergency protests are needed to demand a halt to Washington's war and to defend the right of the Nicaraguan people to live without interference from Uncle Sam.

The initial facts about the claimed invasion, which were available as this was written, confirm that it is a crude fake.

The first report in this country of an asserted invasion of Honduras by 1,500 Nicaraguan troops was released to the press by the State Department on Monday, March 24, some 48 hours before the Senate was slated to vote on the contra aid bill.

A "senior administration official," who,

curiously, insisted on not being identified, told reporters the invasion had occurred.

The anonymous official said his information was very tentative and incomplete, but, he said, "we're sure they're there."

This was a full day after the alleged invasion occurred; in a country slightly larger than the state of Tennessee, a country where the U.S. military has a major presence and an elaborate surveillance system!

The initial response of Honduran offi-

cials was one of surprise.

"Everything is calm," said Maj. Jorge Arguello, an armed forces spokesman.

The Honduran National Security Council met to discuss the reported invasion, and a spokesman, Lisandro Quezada, then told reporters that the ministers "have no more information other than that [in news cables] coming from outside Honduras."

Quezada dismissed the U.S. report as "disinformation" intended to win support

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Protests force collapse of Haiti government

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — A wave of antigovernment strikes and demonstrations led to the collapse of the National Council of Government (CNG) here March 21. The army immediately appointed a three-person council to replace the six-member military-civilian junta established by dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier when he fled the country on February 7. The army also imposed an 8:00 p.m.-to-5:00 a.m. curfew in an attempt to dampen protests.

The Duvalier regime began in 1957 when François "Papa Doc" Duvalier took power. He created a private police force, the hated Tontons Macoutes, to crush all opposition.

When "Papa Doc" died in 1971, his son Jean-Claude Duvalier became "president for life." The U.S. government backed Jean-Claude — as it had his father — providing him with economic and military aid. U.S. corporations increased investments in Haiti, profiting from the low wages and Duvalier's repression of any attempts to organize a union movement.

Before leaving, Duvalier turned power over to the army and organized the CNG. Five of the six members were army officers or former members of Duvalier's cabinet. The sixth, Gérard Gourgue, was chairman of the Haitian League for Human Rights. He was an opponent of the Duvalier regime and was added to give the new government some credibility and a chance to defuse the massive protests.

On March 20, Gourgue announced his resignation from the government.

The next day, Gen. Henri Namphy, president of the junta, announced the resignation of Alix Cinéas, Col. Prosper Avril, and Col. Max Vallès. These three had been targets of popular protests demanding their removal from the government. Avril and Vallès were officers in Duvalier's presidential guard, and Cinéas was the dictator's minister of public works and transportation.

Namphy explained that "because of the climate of unrest and uncertainty reigning in the country, the armed forces decided to restructure the National Council of Government after the resignation of some

Hormel strikers call nat'l action

BY TOM JAAX

AND MAGGIE McCRAW

AUSTIN, Minn. — Striking meatpackers are calling on all supporters of their eight-month strike against the Geo. A. Hormel Co. to come to Austin for a national march and rally Saturday, April 12.

The strikers are also asking supporters to come into town beginning April 9 to help shut down the plant. The company was able to reopen its plant January 21 when Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich sent the National Guard into Austin to herd scabs.

On March 20 strikers organized a picket line that shut down the plant for several hours. This was the first time that production was stopped at the plant since the Guard was sent into Austin. Hormel admits that the action cost the company \$300,000.

In making this call for support, the local's executive board appeals to "labor unions and other organizations across the country, in the spirit of the civil rights movement, to mobilize and send car caravans and bus loads of supporters to Austin to help us in our difficult struggle."

The call for action comes as the strikers — members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 — face stepped-up attacks not only by the company but by top officials of their international union.

These officials of the UFCW have been on a public campaign against the striking local since January. These attacks escalated March 14 when the International Executive Committee revoked the sanction of the strike, cutting off the workers' strike benefits. After the sanction was withdrawn, the strikers voted overwhelmingly to continue their struggle.

In retaliation, the International Executive Committee announced March 28 that it will be holding a hearing April 7 to consider placing Local P-9 into trusteeship for "refusing to comply with the UFCW's directive to end the strike."

Under a trusteeship, Local P-9's officers would be removed and its affairs, including collective bargaining, would be taken over

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of its members." The new council includes Namphy and Col. William Regala, the two surviving members of the first junta, and Jacques François, an elderly Haitian diplomat. Namphy and Regala were high-ranking officers under Duvalier.

François was Haiti's ambassador to the Organization of American States in the 1950s, but held no governmental posts in Duvalier's administration. He was appointed foreign minister last month by the new government.

The latest protests were sparked when army troops killed five civilians in the Martissant neighborhood here in the capital on March 19.

According to radio and press reports, an off-duty army captain driving through Martissant collided with a "tap tap" — the common name for the small, brightly painted trucks widely used for public transportation here. The captain jumped out of his car, insulted and physically attacked the

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Socialist press sold at Alabama mines, mills, shops

BY DAVE FERGUSON
AND JOHN HAWKINS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Increased interest among trade unionists here in the Minnesota meatpackers' strike against Hor-

mel and the launching of the 1986 Socialist Workers election campaign have spurred sales of the *Militant* at area workplaces.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance here have been carrying out regular sales at four workplaces

organized by the United Steelworkers union and at several other workplaces for the past several months.

At O'Neal Steel, where Socialist Workers congressional

candidate Martin Boyers works, both plant-gate and in-plant sales have been on the increase. Weekly sales at shift change outside the plant have averaged about two *Militants* a week over the past four weeks. During one week of sales recently, with interest in the Hor-

mel strike running particularly high, four copies were sold at the shift change, and another 12 were bought by O'Neal workers from Boyers.

At the Arrow Shirt factory in Jasper, Alabama, socialists have been carrying out regular sales since last October. Although sales at the gate are relatively slow, salespeople noted an increased interest in the *Militant* around the coverage of the Hormel strike and the announcement of the campaign of Andrea Baron, an Arrow worker, for U.S. Senate on the socialist ticket. During a recent sale, one worker asked for extra copies of the flyer announcing the campaign to distribute to coworkers inside the plant.

Recently, socialist here decided

to resume sales at area mines organized by the United Mine Workers of America. At the Chetopa mine, response to the *Militant* has been good.

By going to this particular mine over the past several weeks, the socialist sales team has established a regular presence at the mine portal.

At the initial sale, the team distributed flyers explaining what the *Militant* is and describing the coverage of different struggles that can be found in the pages of the paper. On that trip, 13 miners received copies of the *Militant*. Since then, sales have stabilized at one to three copies a week.

One worker, impressed by the *Militant's* coverage of the Hormel strike, reported that he had sent

away for a subscription. He also pointed out that a Hormel boycott leaflet is on display on his union bulletin board.

In addition to being attracted by the coverage of the Minnesota strike, a number of workers have been encouraged to get the paper on the basis of the *Militant's* coverage of events in South Africa and anti-apartheid activities.

Although sales have leveled off, the sales team reports that they get a good deal of friendly encouragement from miners who wave as they drive by. Already some miners have stopped to buy the *Militant* more than once.

On the basis of this experience, socialists are planning to continue sales at this mine and at other mine portals in the area as well.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

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Puerto Rican freedom activists win Boston support

BY RON RICHARDS

BOSTON — More than 100 people participated in a meeting to protest repression in Puerto Rico.

The keynote speaker at the February 27 meeting was Jorge Farinacci, editor of *Pensamiento Crítico*, a proindependence magazine from Puerto Rico. Farinacci is one of 11 supporters of Puerto Rican independence who were arrested in a massive FBI raid on the island last August. Two others were arrested in the United States and Mexico.

Other speakers included Arnaldo Ramos from the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador, Michael Avery, Farinacci's attorney, and Louis Font, another defense attorney for the 13 activists.

The FBI alleges that the 13 proindependence supporters took part in the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo armored truck in Hartford, Connecticut. The U.S. government claims that the activists are members of the *Macheteros* (literally, machete wielders), a proindependence organization.

Attorney Michael Avery was the first speaker. Before addressing the Hartford case, Avery discussed the latest developments in the ongoing campaign in Puerto Rico to win justice in the case of independence activists murdered by the cops in 1978 at Cerro Maravilla in Puerto Rico.

In February of this year, Alejandro González Malavé, the agent provocateur who had set the activists up to be murdered, was found innocent of all charges stemming from the case. He had successfully argued that as a government agent acting under direct orders, he was not responsible for his action.

Avery said, "At Cerro Maravilla, state terrorism was the policy carried out against the independence movement."

The Hartford case, Avery said, is a test of the 1984 Bail Reform Law. This law al-

lows the government to deny bail to anyone whom they claim is "dangerous" or "likely to flee." Under this law, nine of the 13 activists have been denied bail.

Avery explained that the case was at a "critical juncture," and he invited everyone to come to Hartford for the next hearing on March 21.

Louis Font spoke next. He explained that no money from the robbery has been found. The government, he said, claims they can't find it because the defendants used the money to buy toys for children in Hartford and Puerto Rico.

The government attacks on these activists, Font explained, were an attempt to discredit the independence movement.

The crowd stood to welcome Jorge Farinacci. He told the audience that the FBI raids were a message to the Puerto Rican people that Washington is still the master on the island. "The operation," he said, "was against us as a people."

Farinacci reported that the activists have

received tremendous support in Hartford and Puerto Rico.

He described repression against the independence movement in Puerto Rico, which includes blacklisting activists from jobs and education.

The last speaker was Arnaldo Ramos, who gave an update on the current situation in Central America.

Turning to Puerto Rico, Ramos explained that the island plays a key military role in Central America and the Caribbean. For this reason, he said, solidarity demonstrations in Puerto Rico are of central importance. Ramos called for action against U.S. intervention in Central America.

The meeting was sponsored by the Boston Committee for Puerto Rican Civil Rights. It was endorsed by Colectivo Puertorriqueño, El Comité, Northeastern Law School, Central America Solidarity Association Labor Committee, Asociación Latinoamericana; and Peace and Solidarity Alliance.



Jorge Farinacci, proindependence editor who was rounded up in massive FBI raid in Puerto Rico, was featured speaker at Boston rally.

Oystermen fight condos to protect livelihood

BY CHARLIE ROSENBERG

GRASONVILLE, Md. — Oystermen, clambers, divers, and hand-tongers on Maryland's Eastern Shore recently united to prevent the destruction of a large productive oyster bed threatened by developers building luxury condominiums in Queen Anne's County.

In the past 15 years two other large beds have been destroyed while other developers are currently proposing to build marinas at or near oyster beds.

The united action by the four groups was exceptional in view of the long-standing disputes among oystermen, clambers, di-

vers, and tongers. There have frequently been conflicts over territory lines that keep one type of harvester from working over territory reserved by law for another type of harvester.

These watermen are independent producers, many of whom must work part-time at other jobs to earn a living.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers had granted the Wells Cove Partnership, builders of the development, a permit to dredge a channel. This would have destroyed the oyster beds to create 115 boat slips. Watermen took state and federal officials on a tour of the area in

mid-January to refute government claims that the beds no longer produced oysters. Kent Island waterman Robert Timms was prepared to tong oysters from the beds.

This proved unnecessary, however, since hundreds of shellfish were clearly visible in the shallow waters. The Wells Cove Partnership backed off and agreed to reroute the channel that would serve the project. "If we had let this guy get the oyster beds, what's going to stop a chain reaction?" asked Ralph Lee, president of the Watermen's Protective Association. Lee vowed that "this victory will not be the last time that the various watermen's groups work together."

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Editor: MALIK MIAH

Managing editor:

MARGARET JAYKO

Business Manager:

LEE MARTINDALE

Editorial Staff: Rashaad Ali, Susan Apstein, Fred Feldman, Andrea González, Pat Grogan, Arthur Hughes, Tom Leonard, Harry Ring, Norton Sandler.

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A lot of reasons for buying the 'Militant'

BY TOM LEONARD

A lot of different people bought the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* for a lot of different reasons during the second week of our national sales and subscription drive. Sales teams around the country found new readers interested in a variety of political developments, including those taking place in Central America, Haiti, the Philippines, and South Africa. Interest was high in the fight for abortion rights, in strike struggles, and in combating police brutality.

One *Militant* supporter in San Diego, for example, sold seven *Militants* because of an article reporting on police brutality directed against Blacks in that city.

A sales team visiting Parsons, West Virginia, sold six *Militants* to Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) members on strike against the Parsons Footwear Company. In Philadelphia, nine *Militants* were sold to ACTWU members on strike in that city.

In St. Louis, participants in a labor strike support rally for TWA flight attendants bought all the papers the sales team had with them — 19 *Militants* and 10 *Young Socialists*, a monthly newspaper reflecting the views of the Young Socialist Alliance.

In New York City, 9 out of 16 TWA flight attendants on picket duty at JFK International bought single copies of the *Militant*. One attendant said she already had a subscription to the paper.

Dallas reported that most of the 35 *Perspectiva Mundials* they sold in the Latino community last week were because of the paper's front-page coverage on abortion rights. *Perspectiva Mundial* is the Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*.

Houston was right behind Dallas with sales of 29 *Perspectiva Mundials* in working-class communities and 3 more sold at a local campus. A Houston sales team also sold 9 *Militants* to workers in Texas City who were picketing to protest the use of nonunion labor in that city.

Los Angeles sales included 12 new subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* — 6 of them to coworkers of supporters of the paper.

At an AFL-CIO-sponsored rally in St. Paul, Minnesota, protesting unemployment benefit cuts, a sales team sold out its bundle of 25 *Militants* in 15 minutes.

From Greensboro, North Carolina, it was reported that Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate Rich Stuart has sold 10 subscriptions to coworkers at his ACTWU-organized plant over the last two weeks.

Teams of *Militant* supporters in Newark, New Jersey, have fanned out over the past few weeks to restaurants, stores, and social and political events frequented by Haitians working in the area. They have been selling the *Militant* and campaigning for Ruth Nebbia, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Newark. A week after they had visited one restaurant patronized by Haitians, they found a Nebbia campaign statement posted in the window. They then sold 25 *Militants* in front of the restaurant in less than an hour.

At a March 22 antiwar rally in Boston, antiwar activists bought 95 single copies and 6 subscriptions to the *Militant*. In addition, 8 *Perspectiva Mundials* and 26 *Young Socialists* were sold.

During this exciting second week of the sales drive, 3,100 single copies of the *Militant* and 250 of *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold nationally. Renewals and new subscriptions to the *Militant* totaled 130, and 20 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold.

Currently, *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* supporters around the country are starting to organize for special sales efforts the week of April 5-11. This is a national sales drive target week that can give a big boost toward bringing both single copy and subscription sales goals up to date.



Militant/K.C. Ellis
Militant salesperson at Emergency Demonstration Against Contra Aid held in Portland, Oregon, on March 15.

Black and Latino voting rights tested in Chicago

BY ED WARREN

CHICAGO — The March 17 special elections to name seven new aldermen to sit on Chicago's 50-member City Council was the first test of a voting rights victory won by working people here last December.

At that time, Federal District Judge Charles Norgle accepted a redistricting plan that remapped seven election wards to correspond to their majority Black and majority Latino populations. Based on this ruling the special election was called this March, rather than waiting for the regular aldermanic elections scheduled for February 1987.

For decades the notoriously corrupt and racist Democratic Party machine had gerrymandered the seven wards to virtually guarantee that only whites loyal to the machine could be elected. At the time of the elections, for example, six aldermen from the contested wards were white, and the seventh was Latino.

The December court ruling and special election were another blow to the regular Democratic Party machine that has dominated Chicago politics for more than 50 years. It came nearly three years after the election of Harold Washington, Chicago's first mayor who is Black. Washington ran against the machine in 1983 and surprised big business, the capitalist news media, and the Democratic Party machine by winning the election.

Since his election, Washington, with the support of the city's rich rulers, has moved to further dismantle the old Democratic Party machine. The goal is to assure continued big-business domination of the city

as well as to head off independent Black and labor political action.

Since his election, Washington has been resisted by the leading officials of the Democratic machine in the city and surrounding Cook County.

Led by Alderman Edward Vrdolyak, attempts have been made to undermine and discredit Washington's position as mayor. This political infighting has centered in the City Council where Vrdolyak formerly controlled the vote of 29 of the 50 council members. Washington had hoped to gain enough seats in the special elections to gain a majority of the City Council.

The election results showed the regular machine, headed by Vrdolyak, won three seats. Supporters of Washington won two seats outright. A sixth seat in the 26th Ward was won by a Washington supporter Luis Gutierrez by 20 votes over the Vrdolyak-supported candidate, Manuel Torres. The election result is being contested with both candidates raising corruption charges against the other. A runoff election in the 15th Ward will be held next month to decide the seventh seat.

Neither the old machine candidates nor Washington supporters won the required 50 percent plus one of the vote.

The current lineup in the City Council is 25 Vrdolyak and 23 Washington supporters. If Washington supporters gain the two remaining contested seats, the council would be divided 25 to 25 with Washington casting the deciding vote.

Even though the elections were maneuvered by corrupt capitalist politicians, the redistricting ruling and special elections were a victory for Black and Latino voting rights in Chicago.

Wisc. socialist campaigns against U.S. aid to contras

BY BILL BREIHAN

Margo Storsteen, a machinist who is Milwaukee chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance, opened her campaign as

NEWARK, March 27 — Ruth Nebbia, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of this city, was informed yesterday by the city clerk's office that her name will not appear on the May ballot. Officials claim that Nebbia did not submit the required number of signatures of qualified voters to place her name on the ballot. Nebbia's supporters turned in 1,921 signatures, several hundred more than the required 1,169.

The socialist campaign is organizing a public campaign to protest Nebbia's undemocratic exclusion from the ballot. For information on how you can help, contact the SWP campaign offices at (201) 643-3341.

Socialist Workers Party candidate for the U.S. Senate from Wisconsin by joining the 100,000-person demonstration to defend

women's right to abortion in Washington, D.C., March 9.

Storsteen, who works at Artos Engineering in New Berlin and is a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 66, visited Nicaragua in May 1985.

In a recent interview with the *Militant* she expressed outrage at the damage and suffering caused by the U.S.-directed contras. "My campaign will stand in defense of the Nicaraguan people and their workers' and farmers' government."

Storsteen has visited Cuba on two occasions. She said the socialist campaign would inform working people of the gains Cuban workers and farmers have made in Cuba since they overturned capitalist rule more than 25 years ago.

"A workers' and farmers' government, such as I saw at work in Nicaragua and Cuba, is what working people in the United States need, too."

Storsteen, 30, is a candidate for the U.S. Senate seat presently held by Robert Kasten, a Republican.

SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #2: Totals as of Militant issue #11, PM issue #5)

Area	SINGLE ISSUES		SUBSCRIPTIONS
	Sold this week Militant/PM	% of 10-week goal reached	Sold so far Militant/PM
Atlanta	51/0	13	5/0
Baltimore	55/0	19	11/0
Birmingham	45/0	11	2/0
Boston	94/9	32	31/0
Capital District, N.Y.	61/0	18	16/0
Charleston, W. Va.	48/0	28	0/0
Chicago	91/2	10	3/0
Cincinnati	25/0	9	1/0
Cleveland	55/6	15	11/0
Dallas	119/58	21	9/1
Denver	53/3	20	4/0
Detroit	190/4	33	9/0
Greensboro, N.C.	51/2	17	12/0
Houston	94/32	17	24/1
Kansas City	99/2	17	7/0
Los Angeles	152/21	16	14/18
Louisville	36/1	19	3/0
Miami	40/9	17	10/1
Milwaukee	76/0	17	16/0
Morgantown, W. Va.	63/6	23	3/0
New Orleans	53/2	17	7/0
New York	154/34	14	20/2
Newark	140/27	10	31/4
Oakland	139/10	23	2/0
Philadelphia	63/0	17	3/0
Phoenix	104/16	17	13/5
Pittsburgh	57/3	16	11/1
Portland	53/5	16	8/0
Price, Utah	22/0	26	0/0
Salt Lake City	70/3	26	2/2
San Diego	67/6	16	2/0
San Francisco	105/13	16	8/1
San Jose	105/0	20	4/1
Seattle	89/2	22	8/0
St. Louis	90/0	13	4/0
Tidewater, Va.	0/0	18	0/0
Toledo	59/0	24	31/0
Twin Cities	200/5	18	14/1
Washington D.C.	78/10	25	12/2
Total sold this week	3,146/294		
Total sold so far	6,511/574		371/40
10-week goal	45,000		2,000
Percent of national goal reached	16%		21%
To be on schedule	20%		20%

Striking meatpackers call national action

Continued from front page
by a trustee appointed by the International Executive Committee.

In response to this latest attack, P-9 President Jim Guyette told a March 28 news conference, "we were elected by this rank and file to get a contract. We did not vote for Bill Wynn [UFCW International president]. We're responding to the rank and file and the directives dictated by a democratic organization. This international union has taken a position where they are going to implement whatever they want."

Guyette invited all union members and supporters to come to the April 7 hearing at the Thunderbird Motel in Bloomington, Minnesota.

The company, Guyette explained, is well aware that if a trusteeship is imposed it will be able to negotiate a concession contract with the International Executive Committee of the union. The International officials, he charged, are not concerned with safety or dignity on the job, grievance procedure, or wages. They, he said, "look at numbers and per capita dues coming in."

This trusteeship action, Guyette said, "is designed to help Hormel and to undermine future negotiations or settlements."

Meanwhile, Hormel had announced March 19 that it would meet with the local, but now refuses to set up this meeting. Plant manager Deryl Arnold claims that this is because of the March 20 picket line that closed the plant.

The moves to place the local into trusteeship follow a meeting between top union officials and the local March 21 in Chicago. The meeting, which was initiated by P-9 in an attempt to regain strike sanction, ended after the national union officials insisted only they could record the proceedings.

In the meantime, the members of Local P-9 began to receive \$40 checks at their homes. The checks were the "post-strike benefits" promised by the International Executive Committee if the workers ended their strike.

The checks were accompanied by a four-page letter from President William Wynn. The letter said, "It is not a violation of the International union constitution to cross an unauthorized, unsanctioned picket line. . . . To preserve your own reinstatement right you *must* make an unconditional offer to return. . . . The company is required by law to keep your name on a preferential hiring list."

The letter claimed that "by making an unconditional offer to return to work you will remove significant obstacles to obtaining unemployment compensation pending reemployment."

The local's executive board, however, has told the strikers that during the meeting in Chicago the International officials "admitted those who have put their names on a back-to-work list . . . would not be assured of any unemployment compensation benefits."

Even those who might be rehired, the local explained, would "be working without a contract or grievance procedures and



Picket line (left) that closed Hormel plant March 20. Right, February solidarity action.

would allow management to set wages, hours and working conditions."

Many strikers have sent angry letters to the top union officialdom explaining that they would cash the checks "as strike benefits" but would not sell out.

Despite these attacks by the UFCW's top officials, the strikers remain firm and support for their struggle continues to grow.

Strike activities and the boycott of Hormel products are affecting production and marketing. There are reports that at many Hormel plants there is a stockpile of products on the shelves. Some plants are working short hours. And the Austin shipping department is often sent home at noon.

More strikers and supporters are volunteering to go on the road to speak before unions and raise money for the struggle.

Since the strike sanction was withdrawn and the strike benefits ended, the local reorganized its financial support programs so as to give each striker \$50 a week.

A number of area artists and musicians have produced a video and music cassette for the local. They also organized a benefit concert for the strikers.

Recent support and strategy meetings have heard renewed pledges of support from the farm activist group Groundswell and from the Central American Coalition from Minneapolis.

Baldemar Velásquez of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee in Ohio also came to Austin to pledge his organization's support.

The Metro Area P-9 Support Committee in Minneapolis and St. Paul is organizing a food caravan to Austin on April 5. The food will also go to those Hormel workers in Ottumwa, Iowa, and Fremont, Nebraska, who were fired for honoring P-9's roving picket lines when they were put up in front of these plants.

For further information on the April 12 national march and rally contact UFCW Local P-9, 316 NE 4 Ave., Austin, Minn. 55912. Telephone (507) 433-5635.

100 rally for strikers in San Jose

BY GREG NELSON

SAN JOSE, Calif. — One hundred people representing dozens of unions in the Bay Area attended a rally in support of the Hormel strikers.

The rally was sponsored by the Strike Support Committee of the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council, Teamsters Local 287, and others.

The event was part of a three-week tour of the Bay Area by John "Skinny" Weis and Harold "Bud" Miller, members of striking United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota.

Meta Mendel Reyes of the Strike Support Committee opened the rally, saying, "We are drawn together tonight because P-9 is standing up and by the way they are standing up, with the same goals as those that led to the founding of the CIO."

A message from San Jose City Councilwoman Blanca Alvarado pledging support for the Hormel boycott was read.

Carlos Avitia, president of Molders Local 164, told the audience that when he first saw pictures of the National Guard in

Austin, he thought, "Oh, El Salvador." The arrest of P-9's consultant, Ray Rogers, on charges of criminal syndicalism "is just like El Salvador," he said.

Harry Adams, president of International Association of Machinists Local 565 at Westinghouse, described the solidarity the strikers had won in the Bay Area. "They've raised close to \$10,000 in pledges and donations," he said.

A message of support from the South Bay chapter of the National Organization for Women was also read.

Bud Miller explained the history of his union's struggle, from its founding in 1933 with a sit-down strike for union recognition.

He explained that the local had given

concessions for 16 of the last 23 years. Hormel wants to establish a permanent two-tier division and ignore the incredibly dangerous working conditions.

Skinny Weis, a 41-year veteran of P-9 and Hormel, described the way P-9 involved every member in the strike. "A lot of people ask why we're so strong. We believe the workers should run the union, and our rank and file does. And we believe that an injustice to one worker is an injustice to all of us."

Other speakers included Rev. Dwight Kitner from the Council of Churches; Ron Stafford, from Teamsters Local 912 on strike in Watsonville, California; and Rick Sawyer, business agent for the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council.

Support grows for Hormel strikers

PITTSBURGH — Unions in this area have begun to organize solidarity with striking meatpackers in Austin, Minnesota.

United Paperworkers International Union Local 296 donated \$100 to the strike fund. Local 2789 of the United Steel Workers at the Pitt-Des Moines Steel Co. decided to reproduce and distribute Hormel boycott leaflets. United Mine Workers Local 1197 sent a message of solidarity.

The Pittsburgh chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) sent a \$50 donation to the strikers. Members of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists plan to post boycott leaflets where they work.

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Around 250 activists welcomed Lori Klapperick, a member of UFCW Local P-9, to the Ohio conference of CLUW.

Klapperick told the activists that the union was fighting against a two-tier wage system and for a safe workplace.

Many conference participants took literature to bring to their local unions. Others signed up for more information. Activists

donated about \$90 to the strikers.

PORTLAND — Neil Zwiener, a striking meatpacker, and his wife, Elaine, spoke to more than 30 union meetings during a recent visit here.

The tour raised more than \$3,000 for the strike and promises of future help. A number of area unions have also decided to join the Adopt A Family program.

In addition to union members, Neil Zwiener had an opportunity to speak to 40 students at Portland State University at a meeting sponsored by the Women's Studies Department. Elaine Zwiener addressed a workshop at the Oregon State Conference of the National Organization for Women.

They were also interviewed by area radio stations, newspapers, and Portland cable television.

This article is based on reports from Caroline Lund in Pittsburgh, Kathleen Denny in Columbus, Ohio, and Becky Ellis in Portland.

The Hormel strike at a glance

The 1,500 members of United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P-9 were forced out on strike by the Geo. A. Hormel meatpacking company on Aug. 17, 1985. They are workers at the company's Austin, Minnesota, operation.

Several months earlier, Hormel had unilaterally slashed wages from \$10.69 to \$8.25 an hour. They were later raised to \$9.25. When the union's contract expired August 17, the company refused to return wages to their former level.

Hormel also demanded additional concessions, including gutting the seniority and grievance systems and instituting a two-tier wage system. The company has demanded the right to punish workers injured on the job. The injury rate per year at the Austin plant is 202 injuries for every 100 workers. Hormel is also demanding contractual restrictions on workers' democratic and political rights.

In the course of the strike, Local P-9 has had to face attacks by the company, courts, and governor.

On Dec. 24, 1985, the courts issued an injunction limiting strike activity at the plant.

On January 21, Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich of the Democratic Farmer-Labor

Party sent in the National Guard to herd scabs for Hormel. Public outrage forced Perpich to pull the Guard back from the plant on January 29. The strikers were then able to close the plant again.

On February 3 Perpich again assigned the Guard to herd strikebreakers. Although there are about 900 scabs in the plant, production is only at about 20 percent of normal.

The striking local sent out roving pickets to other Hormel plants. On January 28 the company fired over 500 workers at Hormel plants in Ottumwa, Iowa, and Fremont, Nebraska, for refusing to cross P-9's picket lines.

On February 22, P-9 removed their pickets from the Ottumwa plant. The workers, members of UFCW Local 431, an amalgamated local representing 5,000 members statewide, then marched en masse to demand their jobs. The company refused, locking out the workers.

Donations and messages of support for the Austin strikers can be sent to: UFCW Local P-9, 316 4th Ave. NE, Austin, Minn. 55912.

Donations for the Ottumwa workers can be sent to: Terminated Employees Support Group of Ottumwa, P.O. Box 1355, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501.

S.F. rally supports striking meatpackers

BY SAM MANUEL

SAN FRANCISCO — Four hundred people, mostly trade unionists, rallied in support of striking Minnesota meatpackers here.

The March 13 rally was sponsored by San Francisco Painters Local 4 and endorsed by over 50 unions, executive boards, and officials.

The featured speaker at the rally was Jim Guyette, president of striking United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota.

Guyette began by stating, "I want to introduce my employers, the people who tell me what to do." As Guyette introduced John Weis and Harold Miller of Local P-9, the crowd rose to its feet with prolonged applause.

Fondly known to many unionists in the Bay Area and elsewhere as Skinny and Bud, Weis and Miller prepared much of the groundwork for the rally in a three-week tour they did before Guyette arrived.

Guyette continued, "We are confronted with a struggle against the most profitable company in the meatpacking industry.

"A lot of time when I talk to laboring people, especially union officials, they tell me we can't do an awful lot because of the climate in the country today. What we need to do is to get the politicians to fight our battles for us.

"We say that we can't wait for the politicians to turn the situation around," he said to cheers of agreement from the rally participants. "We've got to do something about it ourselves.

"We are going to take the company on because it's a fight that can be won. It's a fight that can be won on behalf of us in the meatpacking industry as well as for all of labor."

Guyette was accompanied by other strikers from Austin, Minnesota, as well as delegations of workers who have been fired by Hormel for honoring P-9's picket lines in Ottumwa, Iowa, and Fremont, Nebraska.

Speaking for the Ottumwa workers, Mark "Bear" Matsching told the audience that "we don't have to cross picket lines for our jobs. If we have to crawl on our bellies we don't have jobs. We don't have dignity. That is what this is all about, having our dignity and being proud."

Speaking for the Fremont workers, Frank Vet told the crowd, "We decided a picket is a picket and you do not cross it. We were told we could be replaced if we didn't go into the plant. Well, I'd rather be replaced than to lose my dignity by crossing a union picket."

The crowd cheered and stomped as Anna Marie France was introduced. France is a leader of striking TWA flight attendants.

"We had agreed to a 15 percent concession the same as the pilots and mechanics," France explained. "But TWA wanted more from us. They said we are not skilled labor. That we could be replaced."

The audience hissed when she said, "They told us we were not breadwinners, that we were only earning fluff money, and that we had no financial responsibilities.

"Forty-five percent of our women are

Your \$\$ aid 'Militant' reporting

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

Maggie McCraw and Tom Jaax are probably the newest residents of Austin, Minnesota.

McCraw and Jaax make up the *Militant's* fulltime reporting team covering the meatpackers' strike in that small Minnesota town. They arrived in Austin January 21 when Gov. Rudy Perpich sent in the National Guard to try to break United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9's strike against the Geo. A. Hormel Co.

Since January, McCraw and Jaax have been providing *Militant* readers with on-the-spot reports of every major development in this important labor battle.

From the tractorcade protesting the calling out of the Guard, to the student walkout in support of the strike and the growing national solidarity with the embattled workers, these *Militant* reporters have been on the scene telling the strikers' side of the story.

The importance of this coverage was expressed by one of the *Militant's* newest subscribers — Ronald Simmons. In a letter he sent with his one-year subscription, Simmons wrote: "I work at John Deere in Ottumwa, Iowa. I have been a member of the UAW for over 20 years, and I have

never seen anything like what is happening to the Austin, Ottumwa, and Fremont workers. I hope buying your paper will help in some way. I plead with you to keep helping them by getting out the news to the people."

"Getting the news to the people" is what the *Militant* is all about.

But it takes money to provide extensive on-the-scene coverage of important political events. And that's where the Socialist Publication Fund comes in.

The \$100,000 fund will help enable the *Militant* to maintain its reporting team in Austin, as well as send teams to cover other important political developments in the United States and around the world.

As the fund enters its third week, branches of the Socialist Workers Party are discussing how to maximize participation of all party members. Earlier the SWP had decided to make the fund a central campaign. The party's participation will be a big boost to this effort.

As we go to press, fund director Jerry Freiworth reports that \$9,200 has been contributed and \$19,500 has been pledged to date.

By making a contribution to the fund, all of our readers can help us continue "getting the news to the people."



Militant photos by Diana Scalera and Andrea González

Jim Guyette (left), president of striking United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 and Frank Vet (right), fired Hormel worker from Fremont, Nebraska, spoke at rally.

single parent heads of households. I can assure you that we are not earning fluff money. We are out here earning a living because we need to support our families.

"They are determined to break us," she concluded. "But we are the strongest we have ever been. They have forced us to unite. We are winners and we will win. The people at Hormel will also win.

Esperanza Torres, a leader of striking cannery workers from nearby Watsonville, also spoke. Over 1,000 members of Teamsters Local 912, mostly Chicanas, have been on strike since September 1985.

Torres reviewed the increased attacks by police against union members. Recently,

she said, the cops forcefully shut down the union hall for a day.

She summed up saying, "In this struggle day by day we are learning that the different groups, persons, and races are all one. We all want justice.

Some of the others who spoke were Stanley Smith, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades; Stan Gow of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 10; John Moran, business agent of the International Association of Machinists District Lodge 1327; Ignacio de la Fuente, business manager of Molders' Local 164; and Connie Peoples of the Oakland Education Association.

Auto workers bring food to fired Hormel workers

BY KIM KLEINMAN

OTTUMWA, Iowa — The food was handed through the windows to two lines of chanting and laughing members and supporters of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. Passed down the chain and into the pantry, the sacks of potatoes and canned goods will be distributed to the families of 507 union members who were fired in January by the Geo. A. Hormel Co. for honoring the picket lines set up by their sister local, P-9, on strike in Austin, Minnesota.

The four pickups loaded with food were an important and welcome act of solidarity by United Auto Workers Local 997 of Newton, Iowa.

Their proud and spirited motorcade of more than 35 cars and trucks roared into town March 15.

Dave Willoughby, president of UAW Local 997, acknowledged the appreciative applause of the 100 members of the Ottumwa Support Group, but said, "We really should thank you for the opportunity to do this today."

Willoughby also reported on his local's efforts to reach out to other unions and farmers in southern Iowa.

The meeting heard a report from P-9 member Dan Pedersen.

On March 14, Pedersen said, UFCW President William Wynn announced that

the International Executive Board had withdrawn its sanction of the strike and cut off \$40 weekly strike benefits to the P-9 strikers.

In face of this attack, Pedersen reported, the mood in Austin was even more unified and determined. "Our rank and file meeting that night was the best one of the whole strike," he said. "We had 500 people."

"I want to tell you," Pedersen continued, "P-9 called this strike, and P-9 will call it off."

Having traveled extensively to win support for the struggle, Pedersen highlighted some of the best examples of solidarity for the crowd. "For me, a high point came when I met Nicaragua's ambassador to the U.S., and he said he supported us. It seems that what they're facing makes what we're facing look like peanuts."

The final speaker was Sandy Titus, the daughter of a P-9 striker, who was one of the 115 people arrested in a protest at the Hormel corporate headquarters on March 10.

Titus read a letter she wrote about the strike at 4:00 a.m. when she couldn't sleep in jail. It concluded, "I would be arrested again for this cause and to be part of the feeling of fellowship."

The meeting ended with a showing of Barbara Koppel's Academy Award-winning documentary "Harlan County, USA."

Milwaukee unions back strikers

BY BILL BREIHAN

MILWAUKEE — Dozens of union locals in the area have rallied to support the meatpacking workers on strike against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota.

Locals have responded to the strikers' appeal for financial aid by making pledges to the "Adopt A Family" program, organizing plant-gate collections and food drives, and selling hundreds of "Boycott Hormel" buttons.

Three locals of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union here have sent a total of \$1,400, so far, to the strikers.

UAW Local 1111 is sending \$600 a month to the "Adopt A Family" program. An International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union local is sending \$100 a month to the program.

Workers at Smith Steel have sent \$500 and are organizing a food drive for the strikers.

Contributions have been sent to Austin from locals of steelworkers, machinists, transit workers, and garment workers, as well as food workers.

The Milwaukee chapter of the Coalition

of Labor Union Women sent \$50 to the strikers. Nearly 2,000 "Boycott Hormel" buttons put out by the Milwaukee Committee to Support Hormel Strikers have been sold in area plants.

One member of the committee from the UAW sold 190 buttons in his plant of 230 workers, raising over \$400 for the Hormel strikers.

Support for the Hormel strikers is growing in other Wisconsin cities as well. In Madison, the Dane County Labor Council and United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 538 at Oscar Meyer are organizing a food drive for Austin UFCW Local P-9. In an earlier food drive put together by Local 538 last fall, over \$10,000 worth of food was shipped to Austin.

Two demonstrations have been organized recently against the Milwaukee-based, union-busting law firm that has been employed by the Hormel Co. to bust P-9.

Another event planned to mobilize support in Milwaukee for the Hormel strikers is a March 22 rally with speakers from Local P-9 and a number of area unions.

On March 15 we launched the Socialist Publication Fund with the goal of raising \$100,000 by May 10.

A major purpose of the fund is to help finance publication of the *Militant* and our Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial* and other socialist publication projects.

Checks should be made out to: Socialist Publication Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014.

Enclosed is my contribution to the Socialist Publication Fund of \$ _____

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Philippines: people mobilize to extend gains

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — One month after the overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos through a massive people's uprising in Manila, popular struggles continue and are spreading across the Philippines.

Inspired by their role in ousting the dictator, workers and farmers are using "people power" mobilizations in their fight to dismantle remaining elements of the Marcos apparatus and advance their own immediate interests against the Marcos cronies and other exploiters.

Mobilizations in the past week have dealt with a broad range of demands:

- A strike began March 21 by 22,000 Filipino workers against pay rates and working conditions at the Subic Bay Naval Station, Clark Air Base, and other U.S. military installations.

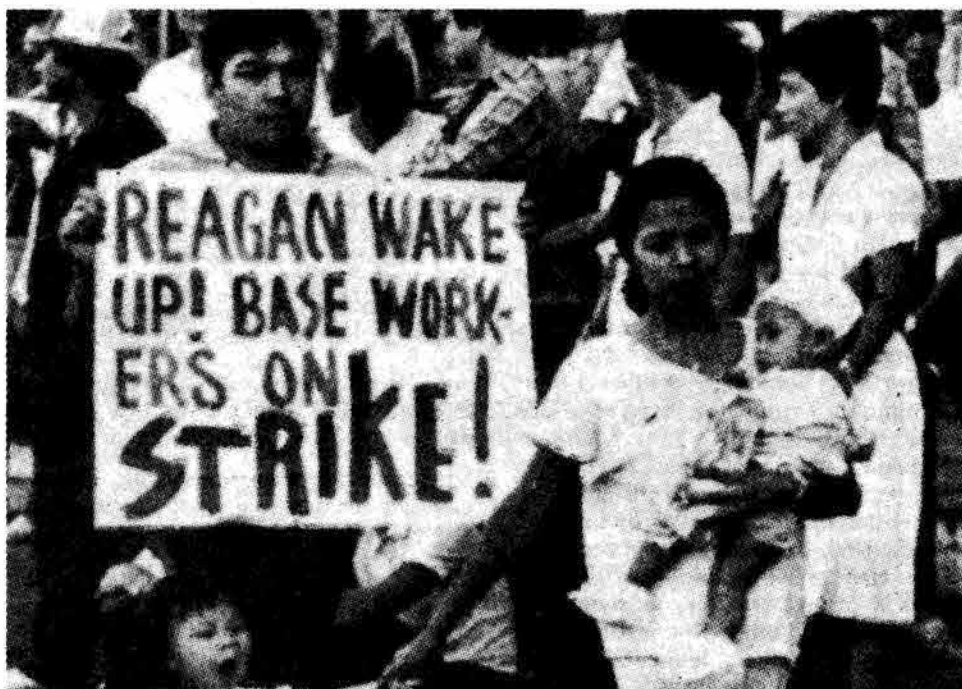
On the evening of March 21, six workers were reportedly stabbed and seriously wounded by U.S. military personnel attempting to break the union picket line.

- Five hundred Muslims, mostly students, marched to the presidential palace in Manila March 18 to press President Corason Aquino for Muslim autonomy on the southern island of Mindanao and to denounce Gov. Ali Dinaporo of Lanao del Sur province as a Marcos crony.

- On Mindanao itself, students are reported to be boycotting classes at the Mindanao State University to demand that Dinaporo, who was university president, and his security guards be removed from campus.

- In Davao City, Mindanao, on March 20, 5,000 people were reportedly preparing to march on the capitol building to oust the Marcos-appointed governor and mayor, who have barricaded themselves in the building with 1,000 supporters.

Other reported actions against local government officials include barricades



Workers with family members picket outside Subic Bay naval base. About 20,000 union members struck U.S. bases protesting refusal of U.S. authorities to negotiate collective bargaining agreement.

erected at Manila City Hall by market vendors and protest organizations to demand the ouster of Mayor Ramon Bagatsing for corruption.

- A host of strikes and pickets are taking place at private companies, combining demands for the sacking of Marcos appointees and cronies in management, the reinstatement of union activists victimized under the dictatorship, and the lifting of wage restrictions imposed by the old regime.

Such actions have been reported at the Metro Manila Transit Corporation, the Philippines National Railways, the Marcos crony Roberto Benedicto's Holiday Inn

and Producers Bank, and other banks.

The March 21 *Malaya* reported an estimated 38 strikes under way nationwide, including one of the 10,000 employees at the crony-owned Philippines Long Distance Telephone Company, who are defying a return-to-work order by the new minister of Labor Augusto "Bobbie" Sanchez.

- Pickets of government departments have taken place in many parts of the Philippines demanding the ouster of corrupt administrators. The National Housing Authority was picketed by Quezon City residents, and the Ministry of Labor and Employment in Bacolod City by the National Federation of Sugar Workers and ministry

employees. The Ministry of Social Services in Iloilo City and the National Pollution Control Commission in Manila were also targets of protests.

- A group of squatters has occupied vacant units of high-priced housing projects in Manila believed to have been developed by Imelda Marcos.

Oppressed minorities raise demands

- Peasant organizations on Mindanao have announced plans to occupy and seize land owned by Marcos cronies, politicians, and Philippine officials who illegally amassed wealth during the reign of the deposed dictator, as well as land from which peasants and tribal minorities were driven by the terror squads of the warlords. The warlords are tyrannical provincial landlords who built private armies under Marcos.

These organizations presented a proposal March 18 to the agriculture and food minister of the Aquino government including demands for such a land redistribution.

- Representatives of the tribal minorities of the Philippines have presented the new government with a series of demands including demilitarization of the tribal areas, regional autonomy, the return of ancestral lands, and the establishment of a special ministry for tribal affairs.

Meanwhile, an organization called Cory Aquino People's Power has been formed in Manila. The group met with President Aquino March 20 to urge her to abolish the Marcos parliament and constitution and declare her government "revolutionary." Describing itself as a "coalition of workers, farmers, fishermen, urban poor, students, and professionals," the organization grew out of the popular forces that campaigned for Aquino during the February 7 snap presidential election.

The press here has also carried reports of similar organizations being set up in the provinces.

New People's Army still active

Significantly, in the past week the government and the press have dropped the pretense that any sort of cease-fire exists between the peasant guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA) and the military.

According to the March 23 *Manila Times*, more than 200 soldiers, policemen, and Civilian Home Defense Force members have been killed in 172 "insurgency-related incidents" since Marcos fled February 25.

Most of these incidents have taken place in the central and southern zones of the Visayas island group and Mindanao.

On March 19, for example, 300 NPA fighters were reported to have stormed the municipal hall in Bacungan, Zamboanga Del Norte, on Mindanao, killing four soldiers and capturing a number of high-powered weapons.

Continued on Page 13

Manila workers gain confidence

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — A visit to the workers' picket line outside the swank Holiday Inn on the harbor front here gave a feel for the growing confidence and consciousness of the Filipino working class after the overthrow of the dictator, Ferdinand Marcos.

Opposite the Holiday Inn stands the Cultural Center of the Philippines, a huge monument to Imelda Marcos' pretentious extravagance that, like the pyramids of the Egyptian pharaohs, was literally built on the bodies of many of its workers.

While the Holiday Inn may not have the bodies of workers in its foundations, it has been no less brutal in its exploitation, the picketing workers explained. It was owned by top Marcos crony Roberto Benedicto. The workers were forced into a company union, the Holiday Inn Employees Association, called "management union" for short because of who was looting its funds, among other reasons.

Last September, some of the Holiday Inn workers who identified with the militant May 1 Movement union federation (KMU) filed a formal complaint with the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) over misappropriation of union funds. Six workers were immediately and illegally fired. A month later, 84 more Holiday Inn workers were "retrenched."

Following the second firings, a picket was mounted outside the hotel October 20. It was dispersed by the military. A month later, a second attempt was made to set up a picket line. This time, Benedicto arranged for another Marcos crony, the local mayor of Pasay, to have all the picketing workers jailed.

The overthrow of the Marcos regime and the fleeing overseas of his major cronies, such as Benedicto, opened new possibilities for the fired workers to renew their struggle, the 20 picketers outside the hotel March 22 told me. So the picket line was reestablished March 20.

The first day, it was attacked by police wielding bats. The representatives of the workers went to Camp Crame, the center of the military rebellion against Marcos, to complain. The harassment was called off.

The pickets told me that three of the six workers originally fired had filed a new complaint against misappropriation of union funds and demanding immediate reinstatement with back pay. The complaint was filed with the MOLE under the new minister, "Bobbie" Sanchez. They explained that the other three had not filed a complaint so that the picket line could be legally maintained while the MOLE considered the case of those who filed the complaint.

There was more confidence that, one way or another, they would win their case.

Under Marcos, they explained, "there was only justice for the rich." But they expected things to be different now, particularly if the new government of Cory Aquino continued on its current course. They said they were impressed by

Aquino's commitment to carrying out her election promise to release all political prisoners.

In response to a question, it was explained that most of the pickets had participated in the people's uprising of February 22-25. Some had heeded the call issued over the Catholic radio station and went with their neighbors to Camp Crame and Camp Aguinaldo in support of the military rebels against Marcos. Others had marched with the KMU to the Malacañang Palace, where the dictator himself was holed up.

Why had they gone? "Because enough is enough. Marcos had to go."

Struggles like that of the Holiday Inn workers are mushrooming across Manila and in the provinces. They augur things to come.

'IP' assesses debate in British WRP

Last October the Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP), a major group in Britain claiming adherence to Trotskyism, suffered a deep split, as one wing broke from WRP cult figure Gerry Healy. Since then, leaders of that wing have opened a public discussion on the degeneration of their party and on the history of the Fourth International and its place in the world workers' movement.

The April 7 *Intercontinental Press* features an article by Doug Jenness taking up aspects of this discussion. He focuses on two documents by WRP leaders Michael Banda and Bill Hunter, which were reprinted in the previous *IP*.

Banda's assessment of the Fourth International, Jenness notes, is generally negative and repeats many of Healy's falsifications. In taking up Banda's view, Jenness recounts the International's origins, role, and response to key revolutionary developments.

Most seriously, Jenness notes, both Banda and Hunter are silent

on the Cuban revolution and its significance. Neither takes issue with the Healyite view that Cuba remains capitalist. And without coming to grips with the emergence of Cuba's revolutionary proletarian leadership, discussions about the Fourth International's role and contribution cannot go very far.

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Filipino Masses Deepen Struggle for Democratic Rights



Report From Haiti Popular Protests Demand Junta's Ouster

South African Workers Fight 'Mine Slavery'

Ferdinand Marcos: world-class thief

BY HARRY RING

"The information I have always had was that while his salary was extremely modest as president . . . he was a millionaire before he took office, and so there is probably some wealth that is his legitimately by way of investments over all these 20 years." — President Reagan, March 5.

Our pious president to the contrary, continuing revelations confirm that Ferdinand Marcos was a world-class thief.

The mind-boggling disclosures confirm that the Filipino people — the majority bitterly impoverished — were ripped off without mercy.

On the basis of still incomplete records, Filipino investigators estimate that Marcos' stolen wealth may total more than \$5 billion. That's *billions*, not millions.

Some of the loot came from plain, old-fashioned stealing. Pocketing money from government bank accounts, carting off paintings and other art treasures from the national museum, transferring government-owned property to family and friends, dipping freely into the treasury.

Some of the wealth was incrementally through "honest" investment. Probers say he was into a thousand companies worldwide. The assets include New York office buildings, real estate elsewhere, stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, gold, silver, you name it.

A major part of the Marcos hoard was accumulated through bribes and kickbacks taken from foreign corporations that swindled the Filipino people even more than he

did.

One example — the huge payoff he got from the Westinghouse company for a contract to build a nuclear power plant in the Philippines.

For that contract, Westinghouse paid a bribe of \$80 million. But in return, Westinghouse grossed \$2 billion.

In violation of federal law, other U.S. corporations paid bribes to swing deals in the Philippines. Among those cited so far are GTE, ITT, and McDonnell Douglas.

Japanese companies and others also paid bribes to Marcos and his cronies for the privilege of siphoning off some of the wealth created by Filipino working people.

The Marcos operation is now being reconstructed in part through the 2,300 pages of documents he carried with him when he fled the Philippines. Other information was tracked down earlier by Filipino investigators. (They found \$800 million stashed in a single Swiss bank account!)

Jovito Salonga, chief investigator for the new Philippine government, said the documents grudgingly released by Washington detail some of the ill-gotten wealth accumulated through "enormous bribes, commissions, and kickbacks . . . by corporations and enterprises that have been awarded lucrative contracts."

Salonga also told reporters that U.S. officials had not turned over all the documents to him.

The reluctance to let loose is not hard to understand. In addition to what the records reveal about U.S. corporate complicity with Marcos, they also point a finger at key



Philippines' Marcos family stole millions of dollars while serving as loyal servant to U.S. government.

politicians in the Democratic and Republican parties.

One document, for instance, indicates that in 1980 both the Reagan and Carter campaigns illegally accepted \$50,000 contributions from their "free world ally."

The contributions were perhaps tokens of appreciation by Marcos for the bipartisan support he enjoyed in Washington throughout the years of his tyrannical rule. Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan — all of them supported and publicly praised this thieving, anticommunist killer.

(Now, the Reagans are no doubt jumpy about one record indicating that Imelda Marcos had dropped a \$60,000 emerald bracelet on Nancy Reagan. The White House says not so.)

Certainly Marcos had good reason to think kindly of Washington politicians, at

least until they realized he was finished and cut him loose.

The U.S. big-business interests could not have done their dirty deals with Marcos unless government officials were willing to look the other way or actually help put them through. And Marcos would not have dared pulled some of the things he did if he did not feel assured that U.S. authorities would not blow the whistle on him.

One example: In 1973, the first year of martial law in the Philippines, the nation's gold reserve suddenly and precipitously dropped 40 percent.

A staggering 800,000 ounces of gold, worth \$280 million at today's prices, simply vanished.

CIA agents in Manila reported to Washington at the time that the gold had been stolen by Marcos and his gang. Nothing was said or done.

In its basic features, much of the corruption in the Philippines follows a pattern familiar in U.S. municipal politics. For instance, there are the current headlines about the New York Democratic machine salting away big bribes from companies in exchange for juicy contracts with the city. It's a time-honored custom.

But in the Philippines, the machine had an entire nation by the throat. The opportunities for such corporate theft were boundless.

The Westinghouse scandal is a case in point.

In the mid-1970s, after studies by several bodies, the Philippine government had virtually decided to award a contract to General Electric to build a nuclear reactor.

Then, unexpectedly, Marcos decided to award the contract to Westinghouse.

How did Westinghouse do it? No sweat. They agreed to pay a 5 percent commission to Herminio Disini, a Marcos underling.

Disini reportedly received a payoff of \$80 million from Westinghouse. Of this, insiders say, about \$75 million went to Marcos.

In addition, Disini set up a construction firm, which was named chief contractor for building the project.

And a small insurance company, also assertedly owned by Disini, wrote a \$688 million policy on the reactor, the biggest ever written in the Philippines.

U.S. embassy officials were uneasy. They knew Westinghouse's price was heavily inflated, and they knew of the talk of a deal. They also knew the project would never pay for itself.

Enter William Casey, now director of the CIA, then head of the Import-Export Bank, which helps finance U.S. sales abroad.

Casey went to Manila to check out the deal and stamped it okay.

The Import-Export Bank provided \$277 million in direct loans for the Marcos government to pay Westinghouse, plus \$676 million in loan guarantees to private banks. It was the biggest deal the agency has ever backed anywhere.

A decade later, the nuke plant has cost the Filipino people \$2.1 billion. Interest costs alone now run \$210 million a year.

Now assertedly near completion, the reactor is being built on the side of a volcano and in an earthquake fault zone. President Corazon Aquino pledged during her campaign that she would not let it open.

As the current disclosures detail some of the scope of the Marcos plunder, it becomes apparent he and his family are driven by an insatiable greed. More importantly, it illustrates that such capitalist greed is truly a social disease.

Filipino workers strike U.S. bases

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

OLONGAPO, Philippines, March 24 — The Subic Bay U.S. naval base, which surrounds this city, has been sealed off since Friday evening, March 21 by "human barricades" at every entrance and along the fence line. No one can enter the base.

The barricades are the focal point of a militant general strike by the 20,000-strong Federation Filipino Civilian Employees Association (FFCEA) at all U.S. military installations in the Philippines. The strikers are protesting the refusal of the U.S. authorities to arrive at a collective bargaining agreement acceptable to their 22,000 Filipino civilian employees after more than 10 months of negotiations.

Fighting spirit

The fighting spirit of the base workers was very evident when I visited the picket lines today. Hand-painted placards carried slogans such as "If Reagan loves Cory, then give justice to her countrymen in the bases" and "Attention: President Cory beware of U.S. aid while U.S. Filipino base workers are abused." Uncle Sam effigies hung from ropes.

Cheers went up from the men and women at the barricades at one gate when it was announced over a megaphone that a journalist had arrived to report their struggle to U.S. working people. Many workers would flash the "Laban" sign of the "people power" revolution. It was explained to me that the strike was an example of "workers' power." The pickets explained that over the weekend, 500 workers and students from nearby Bataan had appeared at the base to demonstrate their solidarity with the struggle.

Tension has mounted in the strike after a vicious, unprovoked attack on the Subic Bay pickets the first evening. A group of off-duty U.S. Marines tried to force their way through the picket lines. Seizing a placard handle, they beat a number of workers and then drew switchblades. Six Filipinos were hospitalized, including three with serious stab wounds.

This was not an isolated incident. At neighboring Clark Air Base today, U.S. military policemen were reported to have attacked strikers with clubs in support of servicemen trying to break the picket line. Workers had to intervene to prevent the military police from dragging a union leader into the base.

I visited two of the stabbing victims of the Subic Bay incident at the Olongapo General Hospital. Reynaldo Torres — a mess man at the Public Works Center Food services canteen on the base earning 13.36 pesos per hour (approximately 66 cents) — was lying on his stomach on a cot.

He told me he was among a 1,000-strong picket line at the main gate when six marines in civilian clothes tried to push through the crowd. He was clubbed over the head and stabbed several times in the back with a flick knife. The marines then fled, pursued by angry workers. His wife carefully peeled his bandages off so that I could photograph his badly lacerated back. Torres' wife also said there had been previous incidents of Filipinos being beaten up by drunken U.S. servicemen in the streets of Olongapo.

I also visited Leonardo Empeño, a leading mechanic in the Transport Equipment Department of the Public Works Center who earns 26.68 per hour, approximately \$1.25. He was attached to an intravenous tube and was obviously in great pain. He had been punched to the ground and then received deep stab wounds in the back.

Power struggle at City Hall

The hospitalized strikers face an additional problem. The Olongapo city administration is the subject of a bitter power struggle. The mayor was a supporter of Marcos and all those city employees dependent on his patronage are resisting his replacement by a new mayor appointed by the Corazon Aquino government. This has meant that the injured workers have been unable to obtain X-rays because there is no city official to authorize the hospital to purchase X-ray film.

FFCEA President Roberto Flores spoke to me in his office just outside the main gate of the naval base. The office was a hive of activity, with dozens of workers coming and going on strike business.

Flores explained that his union had been negotiating with the U.S. military since May 7, 1985, in an effort to come up with a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The union made numerous concessions. However, the negotiations reached an impasse January 14 when approval could not be obtained from the United States for a clause entitling base workers to severance pay when they resigned their employment.

Flores said the union regarded the severance-pay question as a necessary part of any minimum package acceptable to the FFCEA members. "The ranks were impatient," he said. "The CBA should have been settled six months ago. We could not justify the delays any longer to the membership." So the strike was called, and the human barricades went up at Subic Bay, Clark Air Base, and the other U.S. military installations.

The union leader told me that the average wage for a Filipino worker at the base was 16 to 20 pesos, or less than \$1 per hour. Although this is somewhat higher than many other Filipinos get, it is a paltry sum compared to what U.S. personnel working alongside the Filipinos at the base are receiving.

Flores gave the example of a Filipino computer programmer earning less than 40 pesos an hour working along with a U.S. programmer earning 600. One of the longstanding demands of the union has been the ending of this wage inequality.

Not part of anti-Marcos movement

The FFCEA, affiliated with the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, was not part of the militant anti-Marcos labor movement that targeted the removal of the U.S. bases from the Philippines as one of its democratic and nationalist goals. But it is clear the base workers are being deeply affected by the "people power" upheaval that continues across the country and by their brutal treatment at the hands of the U.S. military.

A statement signed by Jose Diokno, chairman of the Presidential Commission on Human Rights and the Anti-Bases Coalition in Manila, is calling for a Filipino investigation into the stabbing of the six workers.

"The incident is one of a long string of abuses committed by American servicemen against Filipinos," the statement said. "In all cases the servicemen involved never faced Philippine courts — they were transferred out of the country before Philippine law could catch up with them. This recent incident and other incidents in the past show American disrespect for Philippine lives, laws, and sovereignty."

The Philippine minister of labor has organized a meeting between the union and U.S. authorities for March 26.

Farmers demand removal of loan official

BY KATHLEEN FITZGERALD

CHILLICOTHE, Mo. — Driving into this town some 90 miles northeast of Kansas City, your attention is drawn to a lot crammed with tractors that encircle a building.

The building houses the Livingston County Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) office. The tractors are there as part of a protest vigil that began March 17.

The protest was planned at a meeting a week before of some 150 farmers, and it came after county FmHA supervisor David Stollings sent out 63 "adverse action" letters.

Such letters are being sent out across the country by the FmHA. The letter threatens farmers with foreclosure if they don't pay their debt in full.

In addition to sending these letters, the Livingston County FmHA, with a yearly budget of over \$1 million, has refused to give farmers loans. Since October 1985 the FmHA has approved only nine loans.

At the meeting the farmers decided to begin a protest campaign to remove Stollings as FmHA supervisor. The farmers are also demanding a moratorium on farm foreclosures, a decent price for their products, and emergency survival assistance for those who need it.

To achieve their goals, the farmers decided to organize the vigil. On March 17, in pouring rain, the tractors began to roll into Chillicothe from throughout the county, filling the parking lot of the FmHA. After the FmHA lot was filled the farmers began putting tractors in the lot of the Production Credit Association office. The PCA is a government agency that provides credit for farm supplies.

Along with the tractors came 200 farmers who picketed in front of the building and then gathered for a rally.

The farmers announced that they were staying put in a peaceful nonviolent way until their demands were met.

Not much is happening inside the FmHA office. But outside there is a daily rally to organize activities and hear messages of support.

Local support for the protest is tremendous. The owner of a small business next door to the FmHA office turned over his office to the farmers. Other businesses have provided the farmers with food. Two local farm machinery dealers have brought new tractors to add to the aging collection already there.

The tractors and the building are covered with posters. "We need a price," they read, or, "Ban nuclear arms not American farmers" and "Farm aid not contra aid."

Delegations of workers who are also fighting for their rights have been arriving in Chillicothe to offer their support to the farmers. On March 20, for example, 30 members of United Auto Workers Local



Farmers picket in Chillicothe, Missouri, demanding stop to farm foreclosures, a fair price for their produce, and emergency financial assistance. Militant/Marty Pettit

710, who have been on strike against the Libby Corp. in Kansas City for seven months, came to the vigil. The next day, a delegation from the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants, presently on strike against TWA, arrived.

And on March 22 members of United

Food and Commercial Workers Local 431 in Ottumwa, Iowa — who were fired by the Hormel Company for honoring picket lines set up by striking Minnesota meatpackers — came to the vigil.

As part of their activities, the farmers are going door-to-door throughout the county

with two petitions. One demands that Stollings be removed from the FmHA and the other calls for the foreclosure moratorium, a fair price for farm products, and emergency assistance.

The farmers found a lot of support for their demands and their protest. They also found hunger among county residents. So the farmers decided to organize free food distribution. With the help of Farm Aid, the farmers arranged to have 12,000 pounds of food sent to Chillicothe for distribution March 22. Three hundred people attended the rally that day. More than 600 stood in line to get boxes of food.

The action of the Livingston County farmers has inspired farmers across Missouri and the Midwest.

On March 19, some 150 Grundy County farmers with 32 tractors encircled a PCA office where a meeting of government and private lenders was taking place. The farmers demanded an end to foreclosures.

The next day 100 farmers attended a meeting in Kirksville, Missouri, to plan actions.

Protests are planned for the Boot Heel section of southeastern Missouri beginning March 23.

Actions are also planned in the next weeks in Minnesota, Kansas, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kentucky.

Farm meeting discusses Black land loss

BY SANDI SHERMAN

MILWAUKEE — "This is a historic gathering," said Merle Hansen, president of the North American Farm Alliance. "We won't save agriculture in the United States or worldwide unless we overcome the myths and prejudice that keep us apart."

Hansen was speaking at the Inner City Conference on the Farm Crisis and Black Land Loss, attended by 100 people from rural Wisconsin and the southern United States. The conference was held March 8 in Milwaukee and was sponsored by North American Farm Alliance, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance, Madison Support Committee for Eddie Carthan, and a number of religious organizations.

It focused on the rapid loss of Black-owned farmland in the South. Some 25 Black farmers from Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Georgia were there.

Participants attended workshops on Black land loss, the farm bill, and alternative models for land ownership and economic development.

The day started with a morning panel entitled, "Who will control the land?" Jerry Pennick, director of land services for the Federation of Southern Cooperatives,

kicked off the panel by explaining the crisis facing Black farmers. "I'm not sure who will control the land, but the way things are going now, Blacks won't have any land in 10 years." Blacks own some 8 million acres of land, mostly in the southeastern United States, and are losing 500,000 acres of land a year. The federation's literature explains that existing government agricultural policy and programs discriminate heavily against Black farmers. In Mississippi, where 43 percent of all farmers are Black, the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) loaned only 7.7 percent of its total appropriation to Black farmers.

The process of obtaining loans is also harder for Blacks, with longer waiting periods, higher interest rates, and more supervisory loans requiring documentation of every expenditure.

Eddie Carthan, former mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, who has received a foreclosure notice on his 800-acre cotton farm, also spoke on the panel.

Describing the crisis facing Black farmers in Tchula, Carthan said it's "two or

three weeks from planting, and no Black farmers have been approved for FmHA loans."

The discussions throughout the day were wide-ranging, from how to effectively lobby Congress and have an impact on the 1986 elections, to the agrarian reform program in Nicaragua. This was described in a workshop by a participant who recently returned from three weeks in Nicaragua on a coffee brigade. The need for affirmative action in a farm policy was discussed.

A Prevention of Black Land Loss Recognition Dinner the same night drew about 150 people. Jesse Jackson addressed the gathering over telephone hookup. Farm leaders and politicians were honored for their role in working to preserve Black-owned land.

Tom Quinn of Wisconsin Farm Unity summed up the conference decisions, which included expanding work between Black and white farmers, and projected a national conference later in the year in Kansas City, Missouri.

S.F. cops break up anti-apartheid picket line, arrest 60 protesters

BY DIANA CANTÚ

SAN FRANCISCO — On two consecutive days, club-wielding cops broke up anti-apartheid picket lines at the gates of Pier 80. They arrested almost 60 anti-apartheid protesters.

The activists were protesting the unloading of South African steel, fruit, and windshields from the Dutch ship, *Nedlloyd Kembla*.

On March 10 members of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 10 refused to cross picket lines of anti-apartheid demonstrators. During that protest, two pickets were arrested and others hospitalized with injuries inflicted by the cops.

In response to the police action, 200 demonstrators showed up at the pier by 7:30 a.m. the next day. Trucks were prevented from entering the area to unload the ship.

The San Francisco cops were out in full force with clubs and riot gear.

After a judge turned down a temporary restraining order against the protest, requested by the Pacific Maritime Association (the employers' organization), 50 helmeted cops brandishing long clubs moved in and arrested 57 people.

As they hemmed in and surrounded the

pickets, police poked and hit them with the clubs.

Alameda County Supervisor John George, chair of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, who witnessed the arrests, told the *Militant*: "The police are wrong for arresting peaceful demonstrators. San Francisco is using taxpayers' money to protect South African cargo."

At a press conference later in the day, John George and David Reed, chair of the San Francisco Anti-Apartheid Committee, issued a statement condemning the arrests and demanding the release of all those arrested.

"To trade with South Africa is to aid apartheid. We are determined to stop trade with South Africa," they stated.

The port of San Francisco has been the site of a number of protests when ships carrying cargo from South Africa have attempted to unload. In November 1984 workers from ILWU Local 10 refused to unload the *Nedlloyd Kembla*'s sister ship, the *Nedlloyd Kimberly*, until a federal court forced them back to work.

San Francisco is one of many cities that have passed resolutions against doing business with the apartheid government in South Africa.

Lies about Sandinistas answered

BY RASHAAD ALI

The American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) is on a national campaign to convince working people that the Sandinista government in Nicaragua is totalitarian. This includes submitting articles to union newspapers with this theme.

Recently, Wayne Breidford, steward for Shop 2-2421 of the International Association of Machinists, answered a few of these lies in the February 1986 *Aero Mechanic*. He took up two AIFLD articles that had appeared in the union paper last June and December.

Those articles, he wrote, "by leaving out some very important facts and distorting others... leave the readers with the intended conclusion that the Sandinista government runs a 'police state' which has a policy of suppressing the trade union movement."

The union steward, who recently spent a month in Nicaragua teaching at an agricultural mechanization school, explained, "The government of Nicaragua has encouraged the organization of trade unions to the extent that over 55 percent of the workforce is organized," and that "the two AIFLD affiliates mentioned (CUS and CNT) have a combined membership of less than 4,500, less than 2 percent of Nicaragua's organized workforce. Because of their history as acceptable 'company' unions under the Somoza dictatorship and continued ties to the U.S. government (through AIFLD) the CUS and CNT are looked on with suspicion by the Nicaraguan government and the majority of the Nicaraguan people."

Breidford adds that the "AIFLD was formed in 1962 as a joint venture of the AFL-CIO, American business interest, and the U.S. State Department," and works "to implement U.S. foreign policy and promote a 'healthy environment' for U.S. corporations." AIFLD has often acted as a "conduit for C.I.A. money as well as a cover for C.I.A. operatives. The State Department is currently paying 80 percent of AIFLD's budget."

"Nicaragua is fighting a war against a U.S.-funded and directed 'contra' army," he explained, and "The C.I.A. has mined Nicaragua's major ports and blown up its largest oil storage facility."

He also asked why the AIFLD never denounces the terrorist tactics of the contras.

Breidford noted that the AIFLD article in the December issue said its information was based on a tour that also visited El Salvador. But "instead of hearing about the massive and bloody repression of trade unions in that country," Breidford wrote, "we hear about some incidents in Nicaragua that pale by comparison."

At the time that the AIFLD tour was taking place "an official of the Salvadoran waterworkers union was kidnapped and murdered by a right-wing death squad and/or government security forces," Breidford writes.

Pointing to the armed population of Nicaragua, he adds, "There is no way that a police state could survive with weapons so readily available to the general population! The simple truth is that the majority of the people supports their government."

Protests force collapse of Haiti government

Continued from front page

tap tap driver, and tried to arrest him.

Other drivers came to the victim's aid and blocked off the street, forcing the captain to flee. Shortly thereafter, uniformed soldiers appeared and opened fire on the crowd, killing five people and wounding at least 10.

This massacre was widely condemned as a continuation of the kind of bloody repression suffered under the Duvalier dictatorship. Commentators on the Catholic and other radio stations demanded an explanation from the government and called for the arrest of the guilty officers and soldiers.

In response to the murders, tap tap, taxi, and truck drivers declared a strike in Martissant, blocking the main route from Port-au-Prince south to Carrefour. They barricaded the road and forced other drivers to stop. When the police and army were sent in to open the road, the drivers expanded their strike to include the entire city.

Protests mounted throughout Haiti the day after the killings, as the government took no action against the officer and soldiers responsible. Thousands of students demonstrated in front of the National Palace chanting "No more tricks!" "The government must explain itself!" and "Stop attacking the people!" Students also demonstrated at the National Television and the Catholic church radio station, Radio Soleil, to publicize their opposition to the junta.

That afternoon, thousands gathered at the palace again to welcome Daniel Fignolé. Returning after 29 years in exile, Fignolé was the popular leader of the Movement of Workers and Peasants (MOP) during the 1940s and 1950s. He was also provisional president of Haiti for 19 days during the turbulent period in 1956 before François Duvalier took power.

"He was a president for the poor," demonstrators said, most of whom were born after Fignolé went into exile. "Our parents and our grandparents told us he was the best president we had," they explained. "When he was president, we had food and we had jobs," others added.

The crowd demanded the overthrow of the junta and called for Fignolé to become provisional president immediately.

'Down with the CNG!'

Other protests erupted in cities throughout Haiti. Students in Léogane marched to demand a new provisional government. They called for the ouster of the current mayor of that city, whom they denounced as a Duvalier supporter. That night protesters set fire to the central market in Léogane to protest the curfew imposed by the army.

In Cap-Haïtien, the second-largest city in the country, demonstrators massed in front of the city hall to prevent the installation of a new prefect, whom they accused of ties with the Duvalier regime. They also



Militant/Harvey McArthur

Demonstration of technical students in Port-au-Prince. Signs read, "Laws on unions and workers' associations must not remain on paper" and "Industry must respect technicians."

chanted antigovernment slogans. Soldiers were called out to disperse the crowd, which had armed itself with rocks and machetes, according to reports from Radio Voix Ave Maria, the local Catholic church station.

In Gonaïves protesters cried, "Down with the CNG," and demanded the disbanding of the army's elite counterinsurgency unit known as the Léopards. The Léopards are notorious for the repression they carried out under Duvalier.

Large demonstrations were also reported in Jacmel, an important city on the southern coast.

Gourgue resigns

The governmental crisis deepened late on the afternoon of March 20 when Gourgue announced his resignation.

As minister of justice, Gourgue was nominally responsible for prosecuting officials and Tontons Macoutes who were guilty of corruption and repression against the people. Hundreds of victims of repression and their families had streamed to the ministry to denounce specific officials and Macoutes and to demand justice.

The junta resisted these demands and, in fact, helped some hated Duvalier officials to flee the country. This undercut what little authority the military rulers had to begin with and put more pressure on Gourgue as the one responsible for bringing the criminals to trial.

On March 19, Gourgue went on national television to read a statement assuring the people that the junta really would take measures against the old officials. However, the only concrete accomplishments he could cite were a report he had passed on to the army high command, asking them to investigate certain officers; a dossier compiled for possible extradition proceedings against Col. Albert Pierre, a hated of-

ficer the junta had allowed to escape to Brazil; and the tentative beginnings of legal action against two other Duvalier officials.

That night, the army attacked the crowd in Martissant. Gourgue announced his resignation the next afternoon.

In a statement read over Radio National, Gourgue explained that he had joined the government "to advance human rights and to help meet the people's demands." Now, he said, he found this was impossible to do within the government. He was resigning to return to his position as president of the Haitian League for Human Rights.

Many people had viewed Gourgue's participation in the junta as a guarantee that it would not return to the repression of the Duvalier years. With his resignation, they were faced with a government made up entirely of old Duvalier supporters.

Fears of repression increased when the government imposed the curfew.

The curfew largely cleared the streets of Port-au-Prince that night, but did not stop the spread of antigovernment demonstrations. Scattered shooting occurred throughout the night, as protesters in some neighborhoods confronted the troops. Local radio stations reported that several demonstrators were injured.

By the morning of March 21, the drivers' strike had spread throughout the capi-

tal. Avenue J.J. Dessalines, the main street in Port-au-Prince, is usually packed with tap taps. That day, the streets were practically empty of vehicles. A handful of tap taps and a few trucks moved, but most carried no passengers. Only a few operated along the main road leading to the big industrial park and the airport. This reporter saw one of them forced to stop by a truck driver enforcing the strike.

Thousands of students — most of them from primary and secondary schools — poured into the plaza in front of the National Palace shouting, "Down with the junta!" "We don't need the CNG!" "We don't want the junta!" and "Down with Namphy!"

Radio stations carried reports of demonstrations and confrontations with government officials in Cap-Haïtien, Gonaïves, Jacmel, and other cities.

According to the *New York Times*, four people were killed on March 21, and 25 were injured.

Radio Soleil commented that "the CNG must decide whether it will do what the people want or if it will act the way Duvalier did."

"The people have been patient," Radio Soleil warned, "but they are opening their eyes."

That afternoon, General Namphy announced the resignations of Cinéas, Vallès, and Avril and the organization of the new government council.

The latest round of demonstrations reflects a changed attitude toward the army. During the protests against Duvalier last December and January, many chanted "Long live the army." They saw a distinction between the army and the hated Tontons Macoutes and hoped the army would support the people.

In this new wave of protests, the demand has been raised to abolish the Léopards, and some protesters have said that the entire army was as bad as the Macoutes. The chant "Long live the army" wasn't heard.

Demonstrators are already challenging the new three-person junta. According to march participants, 30,000 young people demonstrated in Port-au-Prince on March 24, organized by the Committee to Initiate Democracy. "We want a civilian government" was one of the popular slogans, while other marchers distributed flyers calling for a civilian government headed by Gourgue.

March 29 rally to demand 'U.S. hands off Haiti!'

BY HARVEY MCARTHUR

NEW YORK — Thousands will march in Washington, D.C., March 29 in a demonstration against U.S. intervention in Haiti, the Committee Against Repression in Haiti told the *Militant*.

The committee called the demonstration to protest Washington's role in the internal politics of Haiti. The U.S. government backed dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier when he became president in 1971 and was instrumental in setting up the military-civilian junta that took over when Duvalier fled on February 7.

The march and rally will also be a show of opposition to any U.S. military intervention in Haiti, the committee said.

It will assemble on the west steps of the

U.S. Capitol at noon and will march to Lafayette Park on the north side of the White House for a rally.

The committee reports that buses are leaving from Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, New Rochelle, and Westbury, Long Island, in New York, as well as from Boston, Chicago, Hartford, and Elizabeth, New Jersey. A car pool has been organized from Philadelphia, and many Haitians living in the Washington, D.C., area are expected to participate.

For information on the demonstration and transportation, contact the Committee Against Repression in Haiti, 1280 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. Phone: (718) 434-3940.

Pakistani masses march for restoration of democracy

BY MALIK MIAH

The U.S.-backed military regime of Gen. Mohammed Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan is under growing pressure to restore full democracy in this country of 100 million people.

According to an Associated Press dispatch, about 60,000 protesters shouted antigovernment and anti-U.S. slogans on March 23. The rally was organized by the 11-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD). It was one of the bigger rallies held since martial law was lifted December 30.

Gen. Zia ul-Haq came to power in July 1977 after a military coup. Two years later, he executed the deposed president, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Bhutto's daughter, Benazir, is a central leader of the Pakistan People's Party, the largest party in the MRD. She described the lifting of martial law as a "cunning act of political camouflage designed to dupe the people of Pakistan and placate opinion leaders in the Western countries whose support and economic assistance are vital for the regime."

Soon after martial law was lifted, the MRD organized an earlier rally of more than 70,000 people demanding free elections and an end to limits imposed on political parties. Currently, political parties must register with the government's Election Commission to become legal. The registration law binds all legal parties not to criticize the armed forces and to adhere to Pakistan's Islamic ideology.

So far, the government has refused to call new elections. The parliament was elected to a five-year term in February 1985. Most opposition parties boycotted those elections.

The demand for democratic rights has widespread support. Since 1965, fundamental rights of Pakistanis have remained suspended either under martial law or a state of emergency.

The U.S. government is quite concerned about Pakistan's stability. Washington signed a six-year economic and military pact in June 1981. CIA-backed counterrevolutionary Afghans also operate out of Northwest Frontier Province. There are 2 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Protests hit South Korean dictator

South Korean opponents of President Chun Doo Hwan's military dictatorship have launched a series of mass demonstrations demanding democratic reforms. The demonstrations have been called by the New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), the largest opposition party to Chun's Democratic Justice Party.

On March 11, some 4,000 South Koreans demonstrated in Seoul demanding constitutional changes that would lead to the popular election of a new president in 1988. At present, the constitution calls for the election of presidential electors, who then elect a president. South Koreans charge this method allows Chun to hand-pick his successor.

On March 23 another demonstration estimated at 40,000 according to NKDP leaders was held in Pusan. Unlike previous antigovernment demonstrations during Chun's six-year rule, neither of the demonstrations was attacked by cops or troops. More demonstrations are planned for the cities of Kwangju on March 30, Taegu on April 5, and Incheon on April 20.

Opponents of Chun's U.S. government-backed regime have been inspired by the "people power" movement of the Philippines, which overthrew Ferdinand Marcos. One theme at the demonstrations is a warning to Chun that he could suffer the same fate if he fails to respond to growing demands for democracy in South Korea.

Sandinistas: U.S. war is escalating

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In response to the March 20 House rejection of the \$100 million aid bill for the mercenaries attacking this country, Sandinista leaders here are calling on Nicaraguan working people to step up defense and production. They warn that Washington's war is still escalating and the battle to stop aid to the *contras* is far from over.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, in a nationally televised interview the night the House voted down the aid bill, emphasized that "the fact that they voted in a certain way does not mean the war is over. The aggression continues. There are U.S. troops in Honduras, and they've even moved up maneuvers scheduled for April, coinciding with the deployment of 5,000 Honduran soldiers on the border."

"Reagan is now talking about using military advisers [for the mercenaries]," Ortega continued. "That would be the start of a Vietnamization of the conflict. We are facing a big danger."

Ortega said the task before the Nicaraguan people is not only to strengthen military defense in order to decisively defeat the mercenaries, but to also improve efficiency, work discipline, and productivity on the job, to meet the economic effects of the war.

The day of the vote, before its outcome was known, a major editorial was run on the front page of *Barricada*, daily newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). "The Nicaraguan people should not be confused about what is taking place in the U.S. Congress," the editorial began. "Nothing good can come out of there for the future of the Sandinista People's Revolution, because no one in Congress is talking about peace or guaranteeing the self-determination of the people."

The mere fact that the U.S. Congress is discussing how to wage war on Nicaragua "is another element deepening the aggression," said the editorial. The congressional discussion of the fate of another sovereign nation, it explained, "is not only illegal and immoral, but should be rejected by all patriotic Nicaraguans."

The one "positive element in the aid debate," the paper continued, is the fact that "imperialism played some of its important last cards" in the course of the campaign for contra aid. "The masks that hid the faces of some traitors were pulled off," *Barricada* said, referring to the public role both Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega played in encouraging Congress to fund the mercenaries.

"Now we know them well," the editorial said. "Isolated, without moral authority, stripped of their tunics, and dressed in the uniform of the enemies of the people, they have revealed their true character."

Another editorial was run in *Barricada* the day after the House vote. It was titled "Differences in form over how to attack us."

Explaining that the aid debate was far from over, *Barricada* reminded its readers that a year ago, after Reagan lost an initial vote for aid, he then won congressional approval of so-called humanitarian aid for the mercenaries.

The editorial said that "President Ronald Reagan succeeded in imposing a consensus in the U.S. Congress, among both Republicans and Democrats, in favor of military solutions in Central America and especially against Nicaragua."

Barricada predicted that the Senate would probably pass the \$100 million aid bill and then it would go to a joint House-Senate committee, where Reagan would try to get a compromise "in the style of the \$27 million in 'humanitarian aid.'"

"An agreement of this kind," the editorial continued, "would be an official stance of approval for the declaration of war made by Reagan and would open the way for a major escalation of the war."

Based on this, the editorial concluded, "the Nicaraguan people must be more vigilant than ever."

On March 22, local leaders of the Sandinista Defense Committees (CDSs) held a national meeting in Managua with President Ortega and other government leaders. The CDSs are the block-by-block committees that organize neighborhood defense

patrols and that work on solving community problems. Most of the CDS leaders present were of the working class, many of them women.

The four-hour meeting — which focused on specific community problems in various regions of the country — was also a measure of the confidence felt by Nicaraguan working people right now in their ability to meet whatever new war escalation Congress eventually approves. Speaker after speaker was interrupted — and in some cases completely drowned out — by chants against the U.S. government and in support of the Sandinista revolution.

Ortega outlined the Sandinistas' view of the aid debate and emphasized the important role CDSs will play in increasing defense and production. He also explained once again why the Sandinistas will not accept Reagan's proposal of a dialogue with the mercenaries; why Nicaragua insists that peace talks be conducted with "the chief of the mercenaries, Ronald Reagan."

Washington steps up war on Nicaragua

Continued from front page
for contra aid.

Washington persisted. On Tuesday, Sen. David Durenberger (R-Minn.), head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said he had been told that two Nicaraguan battalions, totaling 1,700 troops, had invaded. One battalion got out quickly, he said, but the other, numbering about 850, got trapped.

However, he judiciously added, the general belief was that the battalion would be able to escape.

That same morning, after consultation with U.S. officials, the Hondurans changed their minds and said, yes, there had been an invasion.

Meanwhile, that same day, the still anonymous "senior official" disclosed the source of the invasion report.

Source

"This is all coming from Enrique Bermúdez," he said.

He added, "We're not ignoring other sources. We just don't have any."

Bermúdez is the top commander of the contra forces. He had been a key figure in the regime of Anastasio Somoza, the bloody tyrant who was driven out by the Nicaraguan people in 1979.

Little wonder the "senior official" at the White House chose to remain anonymous.

The only "proof" cited to bolster the Bermúdez story was a claim by an unidentified "Western official" in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. He said that more than a hundred Sandinista soldiers had been killed in the fighting and that their bodies were "inside Honduras."

As of this writing, the hundred bodies had not been produced.

In fact, reporters were not permitted to visit the scene of the reported Nicaraguan invasion.

The only evidence presented by the Honduran government was two men they described as Sandinista soldiers, who they claim were captured by Honduran troops Monday, March 24, nine miles inside Honduras. However, they would not allow reporters to question the two.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan government categorically denied its troops had participated "in any invasion" of Honduras.

The Foreign Ministry said the Washington reports were part of a "crude campaign" to win congressional approval of Reagan's \$100-million contra aid package.

The chief of staff of the Nicaraguan army, Joaquín Cuadra, said there had been recent fighting with the *contras* all along the border and that artillery shells may have fallen on Honduran territory. But he, too, said no Nicaraguan troops had crossed the border.

"This is nothing new," he added. "As long as there are *contras* there, this kind of thing, border conflicts, are going to continue."

Previously, Nicaraguan officials have explained that their forces have chased the mercenary invaders back across the border. They made the obvious point that such skirmishes are unavoidable as long as the *contras* are based in Honduras.



Militant/Nelson Blackstock
Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said vote in U.S. House of Representatives against contra aid does not mean U.S. will stop aggression. He called on Nicaraguan people to step up defense and production.

The massive military build-up that the Pentagon has carried out in Honduras over the last several years, the thousands of U.S. troops that carry on constant maneuvers there, and the presence of the CIA-run contra camps combine to make the border a provocation waiting to happen. An incident between Nicaraguan and Honduran — or even U.S. — troops on Honduran soil can be manufactured anytime that Washington deems convenient or necessary.

In the current incident, however, there is not one shred of evidence that any of the events ever occurred. The State Department literally made up the story.

While this cynical fraud was clearly timed for the eve of the Senate vote on contra funding, the administration's goal was not simply to win a majority for its aid package. Rather it aimed to widen political support in both parties — and more broadly, in public opinion — for its planned escalation of efforts to overthrow the Sandinista government.

At the same time, the lurid "invasion" headline was sure to increase pressure on members of the House of Representatives who are due to vote again April 15 on aid to the *contras* after having just voted it down by a slim majority.

The value of the crooked stunt was seen in the response of House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D-Mass.). During the House debate on the aid bill, O'Neill had declared that Reagan's demand for \$100 million for the *contras* was leading to a new Vietnam in Nicaragua.

Five days later, in response to the invasion story from the White House, O'Neill cynically proclaimed: "This is an aggression by a nation into another nation, and I am bitterly opposed to it."

While several lawmakers expressed skepticism about the alleged invasion, most, like O'Neill, were quick to join the condemn-Nicaragua chorus.

The tenor of the response illustrated how much ground Reagan has actually gained in his fight to commit Congress to escalated aggression against Nicaragua.

In 1984, Congress voted to cut off all aid to the *contras*. Last year, it voted \$27 million in so-called humanitarian aid.

True enough, this year the House voted by a narrow margin on March 20 against the \$100-million military aid package. But it then agreed to put the issue back on the agenda April 15, and it is generally assumed that Reagan will pick up extra votes.

Leaders of the Democrats and Republicans agree that a majority in both parties now favor some form of military aid to the *contras*. That earlier difference in U.S. ruling circles has been resolved.

The remaining differences, and they do exist, are over how much military aid, how fast it should be spent, what voice Congress will have in the program, and other tactical questions.

This shift on military aid registers the fact that both capitalist parties stand united in their resolve to break the Sandinista government.

Certainly no one in Congress is a partisan of the Nicaraguan revolution. But none

are even ready to stand up in the halls of Congress to unambiguously defend the elementary democratic right of a small nation to self-determination.

Why?

Not because of any act of military or economic aggression by Nicaragua against Washington. Nicaragua's only "crime" is that it refuses to knuckle under to Washington. Since Washington politically disagrees with the Nicaraguan government, it's okay to use naked military force to overthrow it.

The present basic congressional position was expressed on the eve of the Senate vote by Sen. Robert Dole, the Republican majority leader, and Sen. Robert Byrd, the Democratic minority leader. They agreed that Congress had to find "a common ground" in resolving the contra aid dispute.

"This matter is too important for partisanship," declared Democrat Byrd.

Following the vote against Reagan in the House, leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution said the result was not a gain for peace.

Omar Cabezas, a government official, assessed it as "a consensus to destroy us."

"The Democrats and Republicans agree that they should give money to kill us," he said. "Some want to kill us one way, others want to kill us another way. They only differ on how and when to give the aid."

Upping the ante

And Reagan's proposition to up the ante by assigning U.S. military advisers to the *contras* — a proposition that seems acceptable to Congress — was noted by the Vietnamese ambassador to Nicaragua. He recalled that such advisers were the prelude for the United States sending GIs to Vietnam.

The biggest problem Washington faces is that the Nicaraguan army is beating the *contras*. These victories raise the stakes for both sides in this battle.

As it becomes clear that there's no possibility of Washington's proxy force militarily defeating the Sandinistas, the U.S. government has to consider other — more politically expensive ways — to wage war against the Nicaraguan government. Including direct use of U.S. troops.

But while the U.S. rulers are agreed on their counterrevolutionary goal in Nicaragua, they have neither an agreed-on blueprint, nor a timetable, for achieving it. They move pragmatically toward their reactionary goal to the extent that the relationship of forces permits.

Every blow Nicaragua's workers and peasants deal to the *contras* strengthens the revolution and makes the prospects for a direct military intervention by U.S. troops less appetizing for the U.S. rulers.

The opposition of U.S. working people to this brutal war plays a central role in shaping what happens. Effectively mobilized and militantly expressed, such antiwar sentiment can put pressure on the White House and Congress and help buy time for the Nicaraguan people to deal decisive blows to the *contras*. A big, national emergency demonstration to demand "U.S. hands off Nicaragua" is urgently needed. It can make a difference.

Miami mayor leads attack on antiwar protest

BY STU SINGER

MIAMI — A demonstration of about 250 people in downtown Miami March 22 protesting the U.S. war against Nicaragua was attacked by a mob of 1,500. The mob was led by Miami's mayor, Xavier Suarez.

The pro-contra mob hurled eggs, rocks, sticks, and other objects. Police refused to stop those throwing rocks. The cops did keep the crazed mob, who were waving hangmen nooses and shouting death threats, from storming the antiwar demonstration.

The antiwar demonstrators had to leave the area in police buses that went through a barrage of rocks.

Many protesters were hit with the thrown objects but no one was seriously injured. Demonstration monitors used cardboard placards to bat away the rocks.

Antiwar organizers received a permit for an hour rally a month ago. On March 20 the police issued another permit to the terrorist gang ALPHA 66 for a prowar rally at the same time, separated only by three lanes of traffic from the site of the antiwar rally.

Spanish-language radio stations mobilized the mob. Anti-Nicaragua politicians joined in. In addition to Mayor Suarez, they included City Commissioner Rosario Kennedy and State Senator Roberta Fox.

Miami's police chief, Clarence Dickson, was on the scene throughout the rally and did not order police to stop the egg and rock throwing.

The antiwar demonstration was a success inasmuch as it was not broken up. Participants refused to leave until the end of the program in spite of the dangerous attack.

Three years ago, an antiwar demonstration in the same spot was broken up when a right-wing mob attacked and the police stood by taking no action.

The presence of two politicians at the March 22 demonstration, State Senator Jack Gordon and State Representative Michael Friedman, was important.

Most speakers focused on opposition to U.S. war against Nicaragua and the question of free speech in Miami.

The speakers included Roulx Jean-Bart of the Haitian Refugee Center; Patricia Ireland of the National Organization for Women; Ray Fauntroy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Rev. John Powers, a local minister; Brenda Meyerson of the South Florida Peace Coalition; Kathy Hersh of the American Friends Service Committee; Jack Lieberman of the Latin American and Caribbean

Nicaragua's unions plan celebration of May Day anniversary

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — One hundred fifty Nicaraguan local union leaders met here March 19 to discuss plans for a major celebration of May Day in Nicaragua around the themes of solidarity with the Haymarket martyrs and opposition to the U.S. mercenary war. The celebration has been initiated by the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), the country's largest union federation.

Following the meeting, Damaso Vargas, regional secretary of the CST, gave a brief statement to the *Militant*, appealing to U.S. unionists to help defeat the bill for military aid to the mercenaries currently before the U.S. Congress.

The origins of May Day, he told the *Militant*, "are in the struggle of the workers of Chicago, New York, and Detroit against the intensive workday imposed on them by the governing class of the United States." This year, on the 100th anniversary of May Day, he explained, "we are victims of aggression on the part of the government of the United States. We are mobilizing against this war and fighting for peace. In our opinion, U.S. workers have the duty to struggle so that the aid to the counterrevolution that Congress is discussing is not approved.

"We need international solidarity right now," he continued, urging U.S. unionists to help "by carrying out marches and significant, combative actions to achieve peace in Central America and to aid Nicaraguan working people."

Solidarity Association; and Andres Gomez.

The open participation of Andres Gomez in the rally was especially important. He is the best-known Cuban American in Miami favoring normalized relations with Cuba. He and others sharing his views have had a difficult time functioning openly here for some time because of terrorist threats against them.

Gomez explained to the antiwar protesters that the mob of right-wingers attacking them does not represent the views of most Cubans in Miami. He said they try to prevent the rest of the Cuban community from hearing the truth.

The March 23 Miami *Herald* quoted Mayor Suarez as regretting that antiwar protesters have the right to hold demonstrations.

City Commissioner Rosario Kennedy, the first Cuban woman on the commission, said she regretted that the egg and rock throwers didn't have better aim.

On Monday, March 24, a delegation of antiwar activists, including Gomez, went to City Hall to meet with the mayor to protest the mob attack and demand that their right to protest be protected.

At City Hall, a fanatic Marietta Sandino, editor of the extreme right-wing paper *La Verdad*, slashed Gomez's face. Again police officials took no action, but Gomez is planning legal action against Sandino.

Some protests against the role of city and police officials in setting up the March 22 attack have begun. Miami *Herald* colum-



Militant/Ernest Harsch
Demonstration in Washington, D.C., April 20, 1985, against aid to contras. In last few weeks, there were protests against contra aid in many cities.

nist Charles Whited denounced the action in his March 25 column, and channel 10 TV editorialized against the city's action.

Further protests are needed. Letters should be addressed to Miami Mayor Xavier Suarez, City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida. Copies of protests should be sent to the South Florida

Peace Coalition, Box 931, Miami, Florida 33133.

Local activists are now discussing plans for another protest against the U.S. war in Central America. Initial plans include efforts to get nationally known speakers and to urge participation of opponents of the war from other cities.

Local actions protest contra aid

Charleston

BY MARSHA LOU PARKER

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — Fifty pickets protesting aid to Nicaraguan contras rallied outside the Town Mall here and were joined by 10 students from George Washington High School. The students decided to spend their St. Patrick's Day lunch hour sending an antiwar message to President Reagan.

Their picket signs urged that the money proposed for contra aid be instead spent by Congress to feed nations with grain shortages and to fund U.S. debt-racked family farms. Students said the money should also be offered to Nicaragua to finance education, health, and other social programs there.

Having recently returned from Nicaragua, I shared my impressions with the students about the gains Nicaragua has made under the Sandinista government. I told them of the advances made in literacy, health, housing, and democratic rights for workers and peasants.

Car horns honked in support of the protest. Only one passing car, covered over with placards bearing anticommunist slogans, slowed to challenge the pickets. "You have never been there!" charged its passenger.

Her Spanish accent suggested that she had been there, and without wasting a second, the high schoolers replied in unison: "Oh, yeah? She has!" pointing to me. The car went speeding off.

Several students voiced an interest in learning more about Nicaragua, and others wanted to know how they could go there.

Participants on the picket included Barbara Ferrara and Patricia Hussey, two nuns currently under threat of excommunication from the Catholic church because they signed a proabortion rights advertisement.

Philadelphia

BY BOB STANTON

PHILADELPHIA — As the Reagan administration bombards the public with daily lies about Nicaragua, opposition to U.S. aid to the contras is growing and spreading. Philadelphia is no exception to this, with an unprecedented schedule of educational and protest activities around contra aid.

Two weeks of protest began March 15 with a church service, march, and rally of more than 400 people called by the Pledge of Resistance. The marchers, demanding

no aid to the contras, held impromptu skits and rallies denouncing the government aid package.

This action was followed by another March 22 in front of City Hall. A student conference on Central America was held at the University of Pennsylvania that same day.

Salt Lake City

BY SCOTT BREEN

SALT LAKE CITY — U.S. war against Nicaragua is "unjust, immoral, and illegal. The contras are not the moral equivalent of your Founding Fathers. They are cutthroats." This is the message that Francisco Campbell, from the Nicaraguan embassy in Washington, D.C., brought to thousands of people during his visit to Utah March 11-12.

He and a representative from the State Department were invited by the Associated Students of Brigham Young University to a symposium on Central America.

Although the representative from the State Department refused to appear on the same platform with Campbell, 150 students and faculty members turned out.

The State Department spokeswoman met separately with a group of 30 and left.

The following evening a town meeting of 150 people was held in the Salt Lake City Council Chambers. It was organized by the Community Forum on Central America and was supported by the Central America Solidarity Coalition.

In his opening remarks, Campbell explained that the U.S. government has rejected every peace proposal put forward by the Nicaraguan government.

A lively open microphone question-and-answer period took place.

Before the town meeting, Campbell was interviewed by all three local television stations and by two radio stations. He met with the editorial boards of the two Salt Lake City daily newspapers and both papers printed articles the next day.

Portland

BY MARKIE WILSON

PORTLAND, Ore. — In a rally called on one week's notice, 350 people demonstrated their opposition to aid for contras and against the lies of the Reagan administration about Nicaragua.

Signs at the rally included: "Stop the murder, stop the lies, no contra aid," "Want to improve human rights in Nicara-

gua? Stop contra aid," and "Portland says: no intervention."

Millie Thayer from the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee explained that U.S. aid is used for the destruction of schools and clinics, and the killing of and kidnapping of peasants.

Other speakers included Mary Medved, Catholic Peace Ministries; Richard Brown, Rainbow Coalition; Jaime Partridge, Portland Labor Committee on Central America and the Caribbean; Bill Resnick, Portland State University; and Dave Weyeneth from the carpenters union.

The demonstration ended with a march in downtown Portland led by 40 people who had been to Nicaragua.

Toledo

BY GARY BOYERS

TOLEDO, Ohio — One hundred people came out for an emergency picket line here March 14 to oppose any aid to the contras. The action was held at the Federal Building.

Following the picket, there was a reception and program at a nearby church. Four Toledo-area residents who have visited Nicaragua discussed their experiences there. All opposed any aid to the contras.

The demonstration was initiated by the Toledo Area Committee on Central America and was endorsed by a number of groups, including the Farm Labor Organizing Committee and the Interfaith Justice and Peace Center.

Leading up to the picket there had been a week-long vigil in front of the Federal Building to protest contra aid. Several thousand fact sheets on Nicaragua and the contra war were distributed to passersby.

Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS — During an evening rush-hour downpour more than 80 people marched to demand an end to U.S. aid to the mercenary contras.

The March 18 march was called by the Indianapolis Pledge of Resistance.

Mike Mooney, an organizer for the Pledge, said the protest was called in "solidarity with the people of Nicaragua, especially those that lost family and friends to the murderous band of mercenary thugs."

Other speakers pointed to the gains of the Nicaraguan people since the overthrow of the Somoza regime in 1979, and urged people to find out about Nicaragua by going there.

Contras plan attack on Nicaragua along Río Coco communities of Miskito Indians

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Mercenary troops, organized and backed up logistically by the U.S. government, are trying to mount a major attack on Nicaragua's northern Atlantic Coast region.

At a news conference here March 19, Sandinista leaders warned that the counter-revolutionary forces say they will invade in April along the Río Coco, the river on the Honduran border where thousands of Miskito Indians have recently returned to their community.

In 1982 when Washington's mercenary war against Nicaragua reached major proportions along the Río Coco, the Nicaraguan government evacuated all the Miskitos living there, moving them to settlements in the interior of the country. Last summer, as part of the development of a proposal to grant regional government autonomy to the peoples of the Atlantic Coast, the Sandinistas honored the demand of Miskitos to go back to their river communities.

At the news conference here, Commander Juan José González, coordinator of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in northern Zelaya Province, told reporters that the current situation along the Río Coco is very "complex." There is an extensive military buildup by mercenary forces on the Honduran side of the river, combined with an intense international political campaign by so-called Indian leaders who are calling on Miskitos "to combat Sandinista totalitarianism." U.S. troops are also in the Honduran region bordering the river, participating in military maneuvers known as "Cabañas '86."

The mercenaries involved in the current CIA-orchestrated plan are those members of the Miskito contra group KISAN, who continue to function under the command of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the largest of the U.S.-sponsored mercenary groups, based in Honduras. KISAN was formed last summer in a U.S. attempt to regroup the area's Miskito contra units and weld them into a combat force. Washington took this step after the Sandinistas successfully signed cease-fire agreements with the majority of Miskito contra groups on the Atlantic Coast.

Two KISAN leaders have recently broken with the CIA and signed mutual defense pacts with the FSLN. At the news conference here, another KISAN leader spoke. He had just decided to accept amnesty and returned to Nicaragua eight days earlier.

González said those Miskitos still with the mercenary forces are "demoralized and in a deep crisis." They have won the hatred of the Atlantic Coast people "for their crimes against Miskito and Sumo Indians."

This demoralization comes in the context also of the "sharp blows" being dealt Washington's mercenaries throughout Nicaragua, González said. "The U.S. government needs to open a new war front, he explained, and is trying to do so in northern Zelaya. He said the seriousness of this threat "should not be dismissed," including the danger of it being used to justify direct U.S. intervention.

The attempt to reopen the war along the Río Coco, he said, is also aimed at autonomy, reunification of Miskito families, the cease-fire being observed by many armed Miskito groups, and all the rights being won by Indians through the Sandinista revolution. The KISAN mercenaries, he explained, "oppose the popular demand for an end to the war and the search for genuine unity of the Nicaraguan people."

The majority of Miskito and Sumo Indians, he explained in contrast, are demanding peace and the consolidation of the autonomy process on the Coast. This includes many Indians who were previously working with the FDN.

They're also demanding the reunification of their families. Many thousands of Miskitos currently living in Honduras as refugees would like to return to their com-

munities on the Río Coco but are being blocked by the mercenaries, who are also trying to prevent Miskitos in Nicaragua from getting back to the river.

Salvador Pérez, delegate of the Ministry of the Interior to northern Zelaya, gave reporters details of the dangerous military situation along the Río Coco. He said that KISAN had been forcibly recruiting Miskito youths from Río Coco communities and taking them to bases in Honduras for military training. The bases are heavily guarded to keep the youths from leaving.

KISAN forces have entered Miskito villages on the Nicaraguan side of the river, calling together the population to tell them an "insurrection" is coming. The Honduran-based counterrevolutionary radio stations "Miskit" and "15th of September" are announcing that KISAN troops will invade sometime in April and are urging Miskitos to cross over into Honduras.

An airstrip is being built — with the help of U.S. army engineers — on Honduran soil directly across from the Miskito community of San Carlos, Pérez said. Anti-aircraft guns have been installed across from the Nicaraguan border post at Leimus. There is an increased presence of mercenary personnel from the United States and from reactionary Latin American governments who have taken up positions in the contra camps in Honduras, Pérez said.

Between 300 and 500 KISAN forces are in place along the river and are being supplied by helicopters. Most are in the area of the community of Kum. Concentrations of



Militant/Jane Harris

Sandinista government has honored request of Miskito Indians to return to communities along Río Coco on Honduran border. Thousands have recently moved back. Contras now say they will invade Nicaragua along Río Coco in April.

50 or more mercenaries are also grouped in villages on the Honduran side of the river.

The Nicaraguan authorities were warned of the KISAN buildup by Miskitos in the Río Coco community. They have reported that the mercenaries are stealing their medicine and food and sexually abusing women.

Social and economic conditions in the Río Coco communities are quite difficult. When the Nicaraguan government announced last summer that Miskitos would be able to return to the river, many thousands did so as rapidly as they could. Housing, food, and medical supplies are in extreme shortage and mercenary attacks have been aimed at blocking the transport of such goods. The mercenaries have also been given large amounts of U.S. dollars to spread in these communities to try to exacerbate the problem of lack of supplies and to foment discontent.

Jimmy Wilson, the ex-KISAN leader

who had just accepted amnesty, explained to reporters that he had spent four years in contra units and was a KISAN intelligence chief when he quit. Speaking in Miskito, with translation to Spanish, he said he had come to the conclusion that the mercenary groups "are not defending the rights of Miskitos." He emphasized his distrust of the FDN.

Wilson told reporters that KISAN has about 800 men under arms, 500 of whom are recent recruits. Veteran members of KISAN are opposed to the CIA plan to invade, while some younger Miskitos who have not gone through the experience of being a contra for Washington are more confused politically.

Wilson said that many Miskitos in refugee camps in Honduras want to return to Nicaragua, but fear death at the hands of the mercenaries if they try to escape. Refugees urged him to give this press conference, Wilson said, so that their plight would be known.

Massive U.S. war fleet attacks Libya

Continued from front page

rect consequences of the repeated provocative military exercises carried out by the Reagan administration in the area."

The gathering of this massive Pentagon war machine off Libya's shores was a deliberate provocation. U.S. officials claim that Libya was attacked after Libyans fired missiles — all of which are said to have missed their mark — at the approaching armada. (Presumably they should have sat with their arms folded as the giant war party sailed up to their shores.) Other attacks were then launched on the pretext of the Libyans' alleged "hostile intentions."

But the only hostile act was the one organized by the U.S. government — a military onslaught that was carefully prepared over many months.

Last November, the news was leaked that the Reagan administration was implementing a plan to violently overthrow Libyan head of state Muammar al-Qaddafi.

The plan called for seeking out people who "could be spurred to assassination attempts" against him, and supporting a "campaign of sabotage and violence" against Libya.

It also recommended using terrorist incidents as a pretext for military attacks on Libya.

Faced with escalating U.S. threats, Qaddafi obtained advanced anti-aircraft missiles from the Soviet Union.

When the Libyan government began to deploy these missiles in December, State Department spokesman Joseph Reap, Jr., cynically claimed December 20 that the deployment "clearly exceeds any legitimate security requirements."

Days later, attacks took place at the Rome, Italy, and Vienna, Austria, airports. Although the U.S. government never presented a shred of evidence that Libya was responsible, Reagan immediately declared that Qaddafi was the culprit and proclaimed him "a pariah in the world community."

An economic embargo was imposed on Libya. U.S. citizens were ordered to leave Libya or face prosecution.

The Pentagon announced it was selecting targets in Libya to attack.

The "strikes against the Libyan missile site and patrol boats were elaborately planned weeks ago, according to Pentagon sources," the *Washington Post* reported, "even to the point of briefing pilots on the best way to knock out the Surt [also known as Sidra] complex."

Then began the series of large-scale naval and air maneuvers off Libya's coast, which included systematic interference with the right of Libyan planes to use the airspace over the gulf.

In a related provocation, on March 18 two U.S. warships moved into Soviet territorial waters in what Pentagon officials openly described as a test of Soviet defenses. A White House official said the incursion was justified by the "right of innocent passage."

Washington thus claimed a precedent for its right to carry out hostile military operations in the territorial waters of other nations. This was a test of the likely Soviet response to the planned attack on Libya.

Following the incursion into Soviet waters, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger announced a new round of naval maneuvers near Libya. On March 21, the Pentagon announced that U.S. jets would fly over the Gulf of Sidra. White House officials stated March 25 that President Reagan approved the move into the gulf after he was assured March 14 that it would almost certainly lead to a military confrontation with Libya.

The unprovoked attack on Libya has been supported by both parties in Congress. "The administration's handling of this matter is on the right course," declared Democrat Rep. Thomas O'Neill, the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"We have for a long time — perhaps too long a time — suffered Libyan attacks, Libyan-sponsored terror, Libyan threats, and Libyan insults," claimed Republican Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole.

Libya has never attacked the United States, but Washington has twice militarily attacked Libyan forces. (The first was the shooting down of Libyan planes over the Gulf of Sidra in 1981.)

Although the U.S. government has provided no evidence of Libyan government

involvement in any terrorist action, U.S. officials — restrained only by the limits of imagination — spin out one tale after another of Libyan plots to assassinate Reagan, U.S. diplomats, and others.

But Washington's role in backing a campaign of assassination, sabotage, and violence against Libya has been completely documented.

Libya's government and people have been the targets of an endless stream of threats from Washington. When Qaddafi or other Libyans talk about fighting back against U.S. attacks, U.S. officials and the capitalist media report this as a "threat."

Dole's complaint about "insults" refers to Qaddafi's refusal to drop his political opposition to Israeli occupation of Palestinian land, the U.S.-Israeli effort to dominate Lebanon, the U.S.-supported war waged by the Iraqi government against Iran, and U.S. and French domination in North Africa.

In the case of the Middle East, the "terrorism" propaganda is part of a racist campaign that inspires and justifies attacks on Aabs anywhere in the world by portraying them as murderous fanatics who are less than human.

The attack on Libya is far from over. "We are well-positioned to escalate very quickly," the March 26 *Newark Star Ledger* quoted a U.S. "intelligence source" as saying. "The feeling is one of hope that Khadafy will take some sort of action, giving us the pretext to pin his ears back or remove him completely."

If Washington thinks it can get away with it, incidents providing pretexts for further attacks can be invented.

Washington has already sent 18,000 troops into the war zone, and is preparing to escalate the conflict further.

Now is the time for protests demanding that the United States withdraw its war armada from the Mediterranean immediately — and permanently.

In Minneapolis-St. Paul March 25, some 200 people protested the crime against Libya. The most prominent slogan was one that all working people and other opponents of war should echo: "Hands off Libya!"

Rightists win in Ill. Democratic primary

BY GEORGE KAPLAN

Two supporters of the fascist and ultraracist National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), led by Lyndon LaRouche, won Democratic nominations for statewide office in the Illinois primary election March 18.

NDPC candidates Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart were nominated for lieutenant governor and secretary of state respectively. They outpolled the candidates whom Adlai Stevenson III, the regular Democrat who won the party's nomination for governor, had supported to be his running mates.

Although nominated separately, the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor in Illinois must be voted on as a slate in November.

Stevenson has threatened to run on a third ticket if the LaRouche supporters are not removed from the Democratic slate. "They are adherents of an extremist philosophy, steeped in violence and hate," he said. "Either they get off the ticket or I do."

The outcome caused alarm in the Democratic Party nationally. The Democratic National Committee asked the 50 state party headquarters to warn voters against candidates supported by the National Democratic Policy Committee, which claims to be fielding 800 candidates in this year's primaries.

Factional conflict

Factional conflict in the Democratic Party played a role in the NDPC candidates' election. One top Illinois Democrat blamed Stevenson, claiming that he alienated sections of the party machine by pushing aside their choices for the ticket.

Many voters were reportedly unaware of who Fairchild and Hart were. "I voted for them because they had smooth-sounding names," one said.

Some Black voters said they voted against Aurelia Pucinski, the regular candidate for secretary of state, because of her support to the machine Democrats in the Chicago City Council who have opposed Mayor Harold Washington.

But the vote also reflected frustration with the choices being provided by the capitalist two-party system. "This is not so much support for the LaRouche candidates that is being reflected but the mood of working-class people who are tired of the way the two political parties handled their problems," said polltaker J. Michael McKeon.

The LaRouche candidates in the Illinois

Democratic primary sought to turn this frustration in a reactionary direction. They used the fear being whipped up around AIDS to make scapegoats of gay people and to attack democratic rights. They demanded compulsory testing of everyone for the AIDS virus and placing in quaran-



Supporters of ultrareactionary, racist organization headed by Lyndon LaRouche won Illinois Democratic Party nominations for lieutenant governor and secretary of state.

tine all those whose test results indicate they might be carriers.

They called for the formation of vigilante groups to hunt down alleged drug pushers.

And they proposed an even more massive military buildup against the Soviet Union.

Since the early 1970s, LaRouche and his followers have carried out reactionary attacks on the labor movement, the Black community, and others fighting for social progress.

In 1973 they launched "Operation Mop-Up," which was a series of violent attacks on members and offices of the Communist Party, Socialist Workers Party, and several Black organizations.

Forged ties with cops

The LaRouche group maintains armed units at its Virginia headquarters, supposedly to protect its leader from alleged assassination plots by "narcotics gangsters, liberals, Zionists, agents of Moscow," and others, according to the October 3 *New York Times*.

They forged ties with the cops, offering to spy on progressive groups for them. They also collaborated with the Ku Klux Klan and similar groups. They sought support from big business against the unions. LaRouche himself established a multimillion dollar network of businesses.

In 1976 LaRouche ran for president as the candidate of the "U.S. Labor Party." In 1980 his U.S. Labor Party changed its name to National Democratic Policy Committee and LaRouche ran for president in the 1980 and 1984 Democratic Party primaries. In 1984 he waged an independent campaign after the primaries.

LaRouche and his outfit denounce struggles by Blacks, women, and others for equality. In *New Solidarity*, their newspaper, they have labeled Black and Puerto Rican activists as "jungle bunnies," "cannibals," "faggots," and "rapists."

Women who fight for the basic human right to have an abortion are denounced as "baby killers."

They have denounced many strikes and unions. On occasion, however, they have demagogically claimed to support a strike, as in the case of the 1984 strike against Sun Oil Co. by Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-912 in Toledo.

At that time, they sought to disrupt the strike through such deceptive tactics as calling their offices the "strike-support headquarters."

"He is a racist, sexist, and a proponent of discrimination on the basis of religion," said Ron Rinna, president of OCAW Local 7-912, referring to LaRouche. "He is dangerous and is not to be taken as a political looney."

LaRouche and the NDPC call for industrial capitalists, workers, and farmers to unite within the Democratic Party on his proposals to solve the problems of U.S. capitalism and accelerate the growth of in-

dustrial. This program boils down to little more than lower interest rates, tax breaks and export credits for business, a massive military buildup, and the building of more life-threatening nuclear power plants.

They cover up the fact that the industrial capitalists are part of the ruling capitalist class that is stepping up the exploitation of workers and farmers today. Instead, they portray the industrial capitalists as in a struggle with evil banking capitalists.

This is classical fascist demagoguery. Far from being in sharp conflict, financial and industrial capital are completely intertwined in all imperialist countries, including the United States. The same ruling capitalist families dominate both.

To justify demanding that workers and farmers support their capitalist exploiters, LaRouche attributes all the evils of capitalist rule to scapegoats. Jews figure prominently in this role in *New Solidarity* and other LaRouche publications.

The drug trade is blamed on "an international Zionist conspiracy." "Jewish bankers" are portrayed as a subhuman species. LaRouche demands "the immediate elimination of the Nazi-Jewish lobby." This is part of the racist ideology that LaRouche also directs against Blacks, Puerto Ricans, and others.

LaRouche and the National Democratic Policy Committee use this racist, anti-democratic demagoguery to head off and disrupt united struggles by workers, farmers, and other oppressed people against the ruling capitalist class.

The NDPC claims to present an alternative to the mainstream candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties. In fact they propose radically extending the racist, sexist, antilabor, antidemocratic, and pro-war policies of the big capitalist parties. The NDPC is a deadly enemy of the workers and farmers.

N. Y. gay rights victory

Continued from back page

can impose penalties on offenders.

The bill includes exceptions for companies with fewer than four employees, for owner-occupied dwellings of one or two families, and for religious organizations that deem it their spiritual right to discriminate against homosexuals.

Moreover, opponents of discrimination against homosexuals also recognized that the opposition has not ended with passage of the statute. The fight is not over.

After the vote, the Catholic Archdiocese of New York issued a rancorous statement branding it as "contrary to the public interest and detrimental to our society."

The church statement vowed, "We will seek legal counsel to determine what steps may be taken to reverse this action."

And City Councilman Noah Dear, a Brooklyn Democrat who led the council opposition, vowed, "We are going to go to the very end to see that this bill is defeated."

Opponents of homosexual rights may be given a handle by Mayor Koch to try to gut the new law.

The day after its passage, Koch announced that he would seek two amend-

ments to the measure. One, he said, would state that the bill does not require schools to teach the nature of homosexuality. The second would spell out that the bill does not require, or permit, affirmative action goals in the hiring of homosexuals.

Since the bill already states that it does not "authorize or require" affirmative action, the sole purpose of this amendment is to add the word, "permit." In other words, if the amendment is adopted, it would make affirmative action illegal.

Koch said the purpose of his amendments is to calm the continuing opposition to the bill.

The mayor is not that naive. Those who remain determined to kill the bill are not victims of misunderstanding. They are simply implacable enemies of lesbian and gay rights, who recognize that, modest though it is, the bill advances those rights. Asserted attempts to placate them simply give them added ammunition.

The continuing attacks on the measure underline the reality that the fight for lesbian and gay rights is far from over. But with this victory, partisans of those rights are in a stronger position to press forward.

Filipino people press forward

Continued from Page 6

Under these blows, the military wing of the government coalition — Defense Minister Juan Enrile and Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos — have been expressing disgruntlement with Aquino's policy of national reconciliation with the guerrilla movement.

"We respect the call of our president for unity and reconciliation, and we will support it to the fullest extent," Enrile said. "On the other hand, we cannot allow innocent civilians and our soldiers to be butchered by dissident elements without having them account for it," he added.

Human rights violations continue

But the threat to peace in the countryside does not lie with the NPA guerrillas but with the continuing militarization of the countryside. As yet the "people power" struggle in Manila has done little to ease the oppression of the peasant masses. The chairman of the newly appointed Presidential Commission on Human Rights, Jose Diokno, has admitted that although Marcos fled the country, the human rights violations continue.

Some military commanders and local warlords have not halted the abuses that helped buttress Marcos' regime, he added.

In addition, hundreds of political detainees remain in the custody of the military in the provinces, in violation of President Aquino's amnesty. Furthermore, peasant activists who formerly would have been arrested as "NPA suspects," are instead being arrested by the police on bogus criminal charges to avoid having to release them under the terms of the amnesty.

The March 19 *Manila Times* reported a press conference by a leader of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which leads the NPA. The CPP leader said that before cease-fire talks could be held with the government, certain conditions would have to be met. The CPP's Central Committee is demanding the arrest of the provincial warlords and the disbanding of their armies, the immediate pullout of combat troops from the countryside, the release of all political prisoners, and a purge of the military ranks, the newspaper reported.

'Premature baby'

This same question was addressed by Father Edicio de la Torre, a recently released political detainee and leader of the CPP-aligned National Democratic Front, at a "Dialogue With the Left" open forum in Manila March 20. He described the "people power" revolution as a "premature baby," which came sooner than expected and was smaller than they had hoped for, but which, with a lot of care from the popular organizations, could grow to full maturity.

The February 22-25 "snap revolution" occurred only in Manila, de la Torre stated. There was no "snap revolution" anywhere else. But this "revolution" could be extended across the country. This would require that the peasants be granted the right to establish their own people's power without harassment from the military, he said. Only as the right to organize in the countryside is won will the need for armed struggle diminish and the basis for national reconciliation be achieved.

Rally celebrates gay rights win

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

NEW YORK — At the Sheridan Square street rally celebrating passage of the lesbian and gay rights bill, I talked with some of the participants.

Troy, a young store clerk, said, "This is the first rally I've been to. I'm from Phoenix, and we've never had anything like this. Discrimination has been around for so long. But the law, and this rally, are good. It makes me feel stronger."

I talked to two Black college students, Pamela and Sheryl. Pamela said, "To tell you the truth, I'm very surprised. It's a step I didn't know we could take. Discrimination against gays is so condoned by all the establishments around us. And with AIDS and all the hysteria around it, I thought we were pushed back by what people believe about us."

Sheryl added, "This is a civil rights

issue. And the one thing we can learn from the civil rights movement is that you have to continually fight for your rights. Blacks won some victories, but now they're trying to cut back on affirmative action quotas. So you have to keep up the pressure. We need movement, more people in the streets."

A young medical technician student: "This is great. The bill will help gay people do more, not just sit back and accept things. They might apply for a job they wouldn't have before. But the fight is far from over."

A Black civil service worker: "It's about time. A lot of hard struggle by lesbians, gays, and friends have gone into this. We have to make sure it's not just another piece of paper."

Ellen Haywood is national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Profit drive, arms buildup behind shuttle deaths

BY FRED FELDMAN

It's a familiar story to millions of workers in coal mining, meatpacking, textile, aerospace, and other industries.

To speed up production and cut costs, safety considerations are set aside. Information about safety problems is deliberately kept from the potential victims. Warnings are ignored or answered with intimidation. Injuries and deaths result.

That is how seven astronauts were launched to a fiery death in the *Challenger* space shuttle January 28.

Coal mine operators and other bosses often try to pass off deaths caused by their profit drive as "just part of the job" or "acts of God." Similarly, the U.S. rulers and the capitalist media initially portrayed the astronauts' deaths as the overhead of progress.

"However heartbreaking, the truth seemed to be that death is the price of discovery," intoned the February 10 *Newsweek*.

Whatever risks are inherent in space travel at present, the deaths of these astronauts were the price of profit and the arms buildup.

Truth begins to surface

The evidence shows that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Morton Thiokol Corp., which manufactured the booster rockets for NASA, knew that the rubber O-ring seals were likely to malfunction, especially in cold weather. The rubber rings were used to seal the joints between the segments of the booster rockets and prevent the escape of hot gases and flames.

As one shuttle engineer told National Public Radio, "We all knew if the seals failed, the shuttle would blow up."

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration conceded March 21 that the joint on one of the booster rockets was the probable cause of the explosion.

As early as 1982, NASA and Morton Thiokol knew that the O-ring seals were

not functioning properly. Instead of moving to correct the problem, NASA officially waived its performance standards for the O-rings in March 1983.

The structure of the shuttle, including the boosters, was modified that year in ways that the government and the corporation knew would increase the pressure on the seals and the likelihood of failure. The aim was to carry larger payloads at lower cost.

Expert's memo

Last July 31, Roger Boisjoly — Morton Thiokol's main expert on the seals — warned his bosses in a memorandum that flaws could result in a "catastrophe of the highest order, loss of human life." Another engineer also warned in August that the shuttle must "stop flying." "The customer be damned," was the company's attitude, according to Boisjoly.

NASA went ahead with shuttle flights — scheduling a record 15 for 1986.

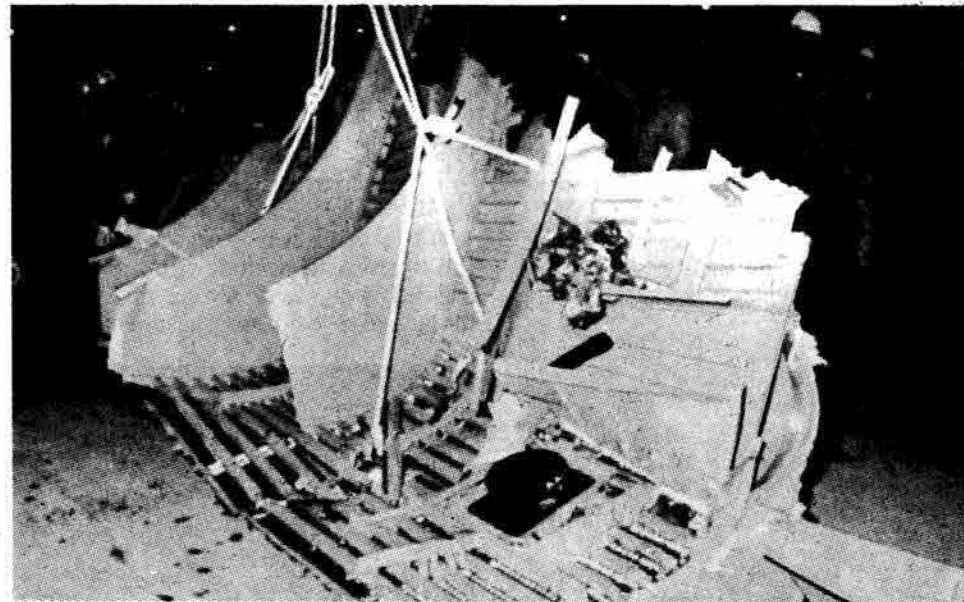
The night before the fatal launch, engineers for Morton Thiokol tried to have it called off. They feared that subfreezing temperatures would damage the seals.

Allan McDonald, director of the company's booster project (who has since resigned), joined the engineers in opposing a launch if the temperature was below 53 degrees Fahrenheit. That was the lowest temperature at which a shuttle had been launched. The rings were seriously damaged in that January 1985 flight.

According to McDonald, a top NASA official said he was "appalled" at the recommendation not to launch. "You don't do that the night before a launch" summed up the attitude of another.

Thiokol top executives then reversed the engineers. Robert Lund, vice-president in charge of engineering, reversed his stand and approved the launch after he was told by another top executive, "Take off your engineer hat and put on your management hat."

For the men who wear the "management



Section of space shuttle *Challenger*, which exploded January 28. Evidence shows NASA and Morton Thiokol Corp. knew seals on booster rockets were likely to malfunction.

hats" at Morton Thiokol, profit is job number one. Corporation executives were in the midst of seeking renewal of their 15-year, billion dollar contract to build shuttle boosters for NASA. And NASA officials had hinted they might consider bids from other corporations.

So the launch occurred with the temperature at 38 degrees Fahrenheit, although the seals had never been tested at a temperature below 47 degrees.

Astronauts kept in dark

NASA and Morton Thiokol kept all this information from the astronauts and from the public. Instead, we were fed hype about NASA's efficiency and dedication to safety.

Many of the remaining astronauts are outraged about the indifference to safety shown by NASA and its contractors. "There is only one driving reason that such a potentially dangerous system would ever be allowed to fly — launch schedule pressure," said John Young. Young is chief of NASA's astronaut office. He said the problems related to the seals were only one in an "awesome" list of safety problems. Henry Hartsfield said he was "very upset" that the agency had not told astronauts about the chronic problems with the O-rings. And Sally Ride, an astronaut appointed to the presidential commission investigating the explosion, said she was "not ready to fly again" under present circumstances.

Cover-up set in motion

The U.S. government's first response to the explosion was to set the well-oiled wheels of cover-up in motion. An intensive campaign was waged to preserve popular support for the space program.

Even schoolchildren were urged to pledge allegiance to the idea that space flights must continue.

NASA announced it would investigate the disaster. A near-total news blackout was imposed. News agencies' and net-

works' film of the launch was illegally impounded.

As it became obvious that NASA's "investigation" would have no credibility, President Reagan appointed the "independent" commission headed by William Rogers. Rogers was secretary of state under Richard Nixon.

The commission has resisted pressure to examine whether NASA was under White House pressure to launch January 28, the date for Reagan's state of the union address until the explosion caused a postponement. "Who in the White House was in contact with Canaveral?" asked Senator Ernest Hollings.

"How were they in contact?" Rumors of White House pressure on NASA to brook no delay "were all over Washington," Hollings said.

Mark Weinberg, a spokesman for the supposedly independent commission who is on leave from his job in the White House press office, denounced this as "the most vicious rumor in the free world."

A Louis Harris poll found that 53 percent of those responding expect "less than a full and frank report."

It is likely that the commission's report will seek support for more dollars for the space program, in the name of safety.

The government is quite eager to get the space program back off the ground. Fully 34 percent of shuttle payloads that were scheduled through 1994 are military.

The shuttle and other space programs demonstrated advances in science and technology that could be useful to humanity. But in the hands of the tiny group of billionaire families that dominate this country, these scientific achievements are used to maximize profit and increase their capacity to wage devastating wars against working people and oppressed nations.

The safety of humanity, like the safety of the shuttle astronauts, is not a priority for them. The massive funds spent on the military-oriented space programs should be spent to improve conditions for human beings on earth.

Broad forces join to fight Michigan gov't election law

BY MARK LEWIS

DETROIT — The Michigan State Legislature has moved to restrict ballot access for independents and "minor" and new political parties. A bill passed by the House and now before the Senate (HR 5089) would dramatically increase the number of signatures required for all parties, except the Democrats and Republicans, to appear on the ballot.

The current Michigan requirement of nearly 20,000 signatures is already undemocratically restrictive. The bill proposes to increase that figure to 30,000.

A broad array of forces has joined together to fight this increase and to press for a decrease in signature requirements. The Michigan ACLU has taken the lead in bringing together the NAACP Voter Education Project, the Urban League, the Detroit National Organization for Women, the Socialist Workers Party, and the Communist Party in this effort.

Kate Kaku, Socialist Workers candidate for governor, has made this fight against undemocratic election laws an important

part of her campaign. "We are witnessing another attempt by the Democrats and Republicans to make socialists and all other alternatives to the two capitalist parties less than fully legitimate — without the same rights to present their views to the public. In the past 40 years that the Socialist Workers Party has been on the Michigan ballot, we have been defenders of the rights of Blacks, women, farmers, unionists, and all working people against the efforts of the Democrats and Republicans to take away our hard-won rights."

The organizations plan an emergency telegram campaign, media engagements, and delegation visits to the Senate Committee on Administration and Rules, which is now discussing the bill.

In a March 11 letter from ACLU Executive Director Howard Simon, urgent action is requested from unions and Black, women's, civil libertarian, and community groups. The ACLU is urging the senate committee to hold public hearings so that those affected by the proposed changes can state their case.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

'PM': protest aid to contras!

The time for mass demonstrations against contra aid is now.

The Reagan administration, in its attempt to convince Congress to approve another \$100 million for the contras, has launched an avalanche of lies against the popular government of Nicaragua.

At the same time, Washington continues to escalate its military war against Central America. Thousands of U.S. troops have been carrying out maneuvers in Honduras, a country that borders on Nicaragua and El Salvador. They are practicing air and land attacks. They're also constructing another airfield and other kinds of military installations.

The current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* examines the congressional contra aid debate, answers some of the main lies against Nicaragua, and calls for antiwar protests.

Included in this issue is a report from Nicaragua on U.S. attempts to sabotage a recent cease-fire between Miskito Indian leaders and the Nicaraguan government, reflecting growing Miskito rejection of the contra war.

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Negotiations begin in copper industry

Arizona companies demand more concessions from miners, threaten to bust unions

BY KATHY OWEN
AND DAVE CAHALANE

PHOENIX — Two of the five companies in the copper industry that have union contracts have put their 1986 takeback demands on the table. Nearly all the industry's three-year agreements expire July 1.

At a January meeting in Tucson, Arizona, with representatives of 16 unions, Newmont Mining Corp. officials demanded a wage cut of \$4 an hour, elimination of cost-of-living adjustments, and a four-and-a-half-year contract. New employees would be forced to bear the full burden of all increases in the cost of medical and dental insurance, and they would be excluded from severance pay and death benefits.

Newmont owns two mines in San Manuel and Globe-Miami, Arizona. They are operated by subsidiaries — Magima Copper Co. and Pinto Valley Copper Co.

Kennecott demands concessions

In February, union representatives met with Kennecott Corp. officials in Phoenix.

Kennecott demanded wage and benefit cuts totaling \$8 an hour, the end of cost-of-living adjustments, and the elimination of premium pay for work beyond 12 hours a day.

Kennecott wants to wipe out a series of benefit programs: retirement, death and disability coverage, insurance payments for prescription medication and vision care, and supplemental unemployment benefits.

The company also wants to abolish all work rules, written and oral, unless agreement is reached by July 1 on each one.

It also wants a four-and-a-half-year contract.

Kennecott is a subsidiary of Standard Oil of Ohio. It operates copper mines, smelters, and refineries in Arizona, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, and Maryland.

Edgar Ball, International secretary of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), said Kennecott's demands would cost its workers at least \$200 million. He said they were "unfair, unjust, ridiculous, and indefensible." The USWA represents about 80 percent of unionized copper miners. The rest belong to 15 other unions.

Unions offer concessions

In January 1984, copper industry unions had responded to company demands by offering a package of concessions to all the copper companies. They proposed a \$2.50-an-hour pay cut and a two-year freeze on cost-of-living adjustments.

These concessions would have given \$150 million to the industry owners and would have cost the average copper worker \$10,000. In return, union officials asked for some form of job security for copper workers.

Kennecott and other companies rejected the offer, calling instead for deeper concessions and an end to "pattern bargaining."

There is no master agreement in the copper mining industry. A national bargaining council of 16 unions must negotiate contracts with each company for each local bargaining unit. In 1983, more than 40 contracts were negotiated in this way nationally.

Since 1967, the union bargaining council has tried to pattern contracts on the first few that are negotiated.

Phelps Dodge strike

In 1983, union copper workers agreed to a three-year wage freeze, but retained cost-of-living adjustments, in contracts signed with Kennecott and other companies.

Phelps Dodge refused to follow this pattern. It set out to crush the unions at its mines.

Phelps Dodge copper workers, organized in 13 unions, were forced out on strike in Arizona and Texas.

With the support of the courts and state governments, Phelps Dodge kept its mines open. The strike in Arizona drew national attention as Gov. Bruce Babbitt ordered National Guard troops and state cops to intervene, escorting scabs into the mines and attacking strikers and their families on the picket lines.

The union officialdom sponsored some

solidarity with the Phelps Dodge strikers, but not enough to block the company from achieving its objectives.

The company staged a decertification vote in October 1984, excluding all strikers. With such tactics, Phelps Dodge busted the unions at its mines in Ajo, Bisbee, Douglas, and Morenci, Arizona.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has supported Phelps Dodge against union challenges to the 1984 vote.

On Feb. 21, 1986, the NLRB turned down the final appeal by the unions and upheld the decertification.

Today, Phelps Dodge operates its Arizona mines with 1,600 workers, less than half the number of workers before the strike.

In 1985 Phelps Dodge reported nearly \$30 million in profits. The company pointed to lower labor costs as the main reason.

Company blackmail

USWA spokesperson Cass Alvin says that Kennecott "wants to take everything away. They're spreading more fear. They're saying, in effect, 'If you don't do what we want you to do, it'll be Phelps Dodge all over again.'"

Kennecott openly declares it will fight to keep the mines open with scabs if copper workers reject its concession demands and

Canadian steelworkers continue can strike

On March 5 United Steelworkers of America (USWA) leaders announced that an agreement had been reached on a new contract with four major can companies. This came after a 16-day strike in the United States.

The new three-year contract for U.S. workers includes a three-year wage freeze and bonuses of \$400, \$300, and \$300 in successive years of the contract. New hires will get 80 percent of the base pay and are supposed to reach top pay after two years. The contract also maintains a cost of living adjustment.

Canadian members of the USWA were still on strike against Continental Can as of March 19. The following report on their strike is from the March 17 issue of the Canadian newspaper *Socialist Voice*.

* * *

BY BARB HORST

In a fight against concessions, 1,850 production and office workers at seven Continental Can Canada Inc. plants set up picket lines February 20. The container industry workers, members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) struck plants in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver. They joined 13,200 brothers and sisters in the United States who walked out four days earlier against four American container companies.

The strikers in the United States, all members of the USWA, have since accepted a contract but the Canadian workers remain on strike.

At the end of the last contract in February 1984, the bosses forced a two-year wage freeze and contract extension on the workers. This time around they are proposing even more takebacks.

Continental Can, for example, wants over 20 different concessions including:

- A lump-sum payment of \$400 in the first year of a three-year contract, instead of an across-the-board wage increase rolled into the base rate;

- A two-tier wage system, where new hires and temporary workers would receive only 70 to 90 percent of the wages paid to full-time workers;

- No improvement in annual vacations;
- An insignificant increase in pension benefits.

The workers are part of a North American master agreement with a common expiry date. This unity is an important source of strength for the workers in face of their bosses' howls for concessions. One of the employers' goals is to bust up this unity by breaking up the master agreement.

Although the U.S. workers accepted a



Militant/Rich Stuart

Copper companies demand more concessions in current negotiations. They threaten to bust unions, as Phelps Dodge Co. did. Here state cops line up against workers at Phelps Dodge mine in Arizona in August 1983. National Guard was also used to break copper strike.

go out on strike.

Layoffs and mine and smelter closings have hit copper workers and their communities very hard.

Ten years ago, 40,000 copper workers were employed nationwide. Today, about 7,000 are actually working. Half of them are in Arizona.

At Kennecott's Ray mine in Arizona, there are 700 union workers today. There were 1,860 in 1983. Ray mine is still the fifth-largest copper-producing mine in the country.

In Utah, Kennecott slashed its work force in copper down to 250, compared to

Continued on next page

contract, the coordinated bargaining team of all local presidents on both sides of the border refused to accept a break-up of the master agreement. They held firm on that, while agreeing the Canadian workers should remain on strike in a bid to win more.

In 1985 Continental Can Canada reported a net profit of \$39 million and was able to pour \$75 million into new technology. This fact makes the workers more determined to fight. There is a strong feeling on the picket line that "this time it's our turn," as one Toronto striker told *Socialist Voice*.

Maurice Keck, chief Canadian negotiator for the union, told a meeting of

strikers in Toronto that the union would stand firm against concessions, for a much better pension plan, and for a substantial across-the-board increase of the base wage rate rather than cash bonuses.

This strike is an important battle against takebacks. If the Continental Can workers are able to beat back concessions, the unity of the master agreement will be strengthened and all container industry workers will be in a better position to stave off the bosses' concessions drive.

The North American labor movement should support these strikers.

Barb Horst is a member of USWA Local 5405 on strike against Continental Can.

Socialists enter Alabama race for Senate, House

BY ELIZABETH FARLEY

BIRMINGHAM — The Socialist Workers Party here has nominated Andrea Baron as its candidate for U.S. senator from Alabama and Martin Boyers as its candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from the 6th Congressional District.

Baron, a sewing-machine operator at the Arrow Shirt plant in Jasper, is a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. She is challenging incumbent Republican Sen. Jeremiah Denton.

Denton is an extreme rightist who has often acted as a point man for the Reagan administration's war against Nicaragua, attacks on civil liberties, and other reactionary policies.

While Baron is a leader in the Birmingham area of the movement to defend abortion rights, Denton is prominent in efforts to take this right away from women.

Baron calls for an end to U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua and elsewhere in Central America. "Alabama National Guardsman, along with other U.S. military forces, are today deployed in Honduras. This is part of the escalation of the war organized by Washington against the Nicaraguan people. I say get them out of Central America now."

Boyers is a machine operator at O'Neal Steel in Birmingham. A member of the United Steelworkers of America, he attacks the antilabor record of Ben Erdreich, the incumbent Democrat who holds the congressional seat in the district that includes Birmingham.

"Right now members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 are fighting a heroic strike against the Hormel

Company in Minnesota, and Hormel workers in Iowa have been locked out for showing solidarity with them. Many working people here in Alabama are inspired when they learn about how the Hormel workers use their union power to fight concessions and union busting," Boyers said.

"The socialist campaign, in contrast to the antilabor Republican and Democratic parties, recognizes that solidarity with the Hormel workers is a top priority for all working people," he continued.

Socialist campaign supporters are petitioning to place Boyers' name on the ballot. They plan to collect well over the 1,600 signatures required by Alabama law. Baron will be a write-in candidate, because Alabama's undemocratic election laws require a prohibitively high number of signatures for placing a candidate for U.S. Senate on the ballot.

Petitioning is going well. There is a lot of interest in the campaign's support for women's right to abortion, since several violent attacks on clinics in Alabama have occurred in the past two years. One young woman expressed pleasant surprise when Baron told her the socialist candidates are backing the right to abortion. "You're for keeping the clinics open? I'll sign for that."

Baron's coworkers at the Arrow Shirt factory have been discussing her campaign. One commented, "We never had a politician in the plant before." Baron responded that she is not like the capitalist politicians, who tell lies to get votes from working people and act in the interests of the rich, but the candidate of a working-class party that fights for the interests of workers and farmers.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Philippines: the Freedom Struggle Continues. Speaker: Barry Fatland, Socialist Workers Party and member of National Association of Letter Carriers. Sat., March 29, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

Free South Africa Rally. Sat., April 5, 12 noon. Phoenix College Theater. Ausp: Arizona Coalition Against Apartheid. For more information call (602) 894-2209.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Is a Revolution Possible in the United States? A class series of the Young Socialist Alliance.

1. "The Ruling-class Offensive." Sat., March 29, 3 p.m.

2. "Revolutionary History in the United States." Sat., April 5, 3 p.m.

3. "The Workers' and Farmers' Government." Sat., April 12, 3 p.m.

Translation to Spanish. 2546 W Pico Blvd. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Labor Needs a Victory — Eyewitness Reports from Austin, Minnesota, Meatpackers' Strike. Speakers: Mike Downs, member International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 13 and Socialist Workers Party; Joel Britton, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-547 and SWP; Carlos Cespedes, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 and Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 5, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Jose

Hands Off Libya! What's Behind Washington's Attack. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 4, 7:30 p.m. 46½ Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

Oakland

Socialist Campaign Kick-Off Rally. Speaker: Miesha Patterson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 8th C.D. Translation to Spanish. Sun., April 6. Dinner, 5 p.m.; rally 7 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

COLORADO

Denver

End Apartheid Rally. Speakers: Nmonde Ngubo, founding member National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa; Di Scott, member of United Democratic Front of South Africa and former youth director, South African Council of Churches; Bill Himmelmann, president, Denver Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO; Calvin Moore, International vice-president, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; Joe Vasquez, president United Auto Workers CAP council; Dr. Clyde Miller, president, Colorado Council of Churches; and Wilma Webb, state representative. Sat., April 5, noon, at the State Capitol. Ausp: Colorado Coalition Against Apartheid. For more information call (303) 832-4508.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The March for Women's Rights: A Report Back from the Largest Demonstration for Abortion Rights in U.S. History. Roundtable discussion with Chicago-area activists. Speakers include local participants and Diane Roling, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Illinois governor. Victory celebration to follow. Sat., April 5, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Support the Hormel Strikers! Videotape showing and talk by Kate Kaku, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Michigan, participated in national solidarity demonstration in Austin, Minnesota. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 5, 8 p.m. 2135 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Socialist Campaign Rally: Solidarity With the Austin Strikers, Stop Farm Foreclosures, End U.S. War in Central America! Speaker: Geoff Mirelowitz, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor. Sun., April 6. Reception, 4 p.m.; rally, 5 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Ausp: Minnesota Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEW YORK

Albany

Building the New Nicaragua: Report from a Work Brigade. Speakers: Larry Lane, Socialist Workers Party, and other members of the Construyamos Juntos brigade. Party sponsored by Young Socialist Alliance to follow. Sat., March 29, 7 p.m. 352 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

TWA Flight Attendants Tell Their Side of the Story: Why We Are On Strike. Speaker: Karen Lantz, vice-president, Independent Federation of Flight Attendants. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 4, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

After Marcos, What Next? A panel discussion

on how change will come about in the Philippines. Speakers: representative of Filipino solidarity organizations; Janice Prescott, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

OHIO

Toledo

How FLOC Won: Farm Workers Get Unions. Speaker: Ray Santiago, secretary-treasurer of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee. Sun., April 6, 7 p.m. 1701 W Bancroft. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

OREGON

Portland

Pathfinder Bookstore Open House. Celebrate

the reopening of the bookstore under its new name. 15 percent off new titles and books by Malcolm X. Sun., April 13. Open house 3:00 p.m. Film, *Malcolm X Speaks*, at 4:00 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Film donation: \$2. Ausp: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Beyond Elections: The Mass Movement in the Philippines. Speakers and slideshow: Jim Nolt, member Chicago Philippine Support Committee, visited Philippines in September; Zoltan Grossman, delegate to May 1st Movement (KMU) labor federation conference last June. Sat., April 5, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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education, and culture.

Tour price includes roundtrip airfare from Miami to Managua, all transfers and ground transportation, three meals daily, hotels, and translator and guide. A \$150 deposit reserves a space.

Tour cost: \$950 from Miami

Copper companies demand more concessions

Continued from previous page

6,637 three years ago. Its Chino division in New Mexico is down to 930 from 1,676.

In this climate, the companies are attempting to blackmail copper workers into surrendering huge concessions and weakening their unions.

In return, the companies are not even giving lip service to job protection. Union workers at Magma's mine in Arizona, for instance, have told *Militant* reporters of the company's increased practice of combining jobs and eliminating workers over the past three years.

Union busting

In 1985 workers caught Magma in the act of trying to eliminate a whole bargaining unit of 25 union maintenance workers. Magma tried to contract-out their jobs to a nonunion company. The USWA challenged Magma and won a favorable ruling from the NLRB on December 23.

Nonetheless outsourcing remains a growing threat.

The NLRB arbitrator ruled that Magma had every right to contract-out union jobs to nonunion companies. He faulted Magma only because the company did not try to negotiate with the union on the issue. Magma and other companies are free to try this union-busting tactic again.

The copper union bargaining council has not yet given a formal answer to the contract demands made by Newmont and Kennecott.

Meetings with the three other companies that have union contracts in the copper industry (Amax, Inspiration, and Asarco) have not been held yet. These companies operate copper mines, smelters, and refineries in Arizona, New Jersey, Montana, Nebraska, Texas, Colorado, Idaho, and Washington.

National union conference

Prior to the first meeting with Newmont, a national conference of unions in the copper mining industry was held January 17-18 in Tucson.

April 19 S.F. antiwar protest set

Continued from back page

ramento, Marin, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara counties; and local affiliates of the Oil Workers, Machinists, government workers, United Transportation Union, and United Food and Commercial Workers.

Leaders of other unions, including the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union, have also endorsed.

The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Nicaraguan Information Center, Casa El Salvador, and many Central America groups are supporting the mobilization as well as the Bay

Some of the bargaining goals discussed at the conference were: maintenance of the living standards of copper workers, equal pay for comparable work in the industry, a moratorium on mine and plant closures, an end to contracting-out union jobs to nonunion companies, and restrictions on the use of overtime while workers are still laid off.

Safety conditions on the job have continued to deteriorate since 1983, according to the USWA. Copper workers want the right to refuse unsafe and dangerous work and have access to adequate emergency medical care on the job.

Area and South Bay chapters of the Free South Africa Movement, Bay Area National Conference of Black Lawyers, the San Francisco Chapter of the National Organization for Women, Rainbow Coalition, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Organizations in many California cities are publicizing the march. In San Jose Ron Lind, a local president of the United Food and Commercial Workers, hosted a meeting of activists from a number of organizations. The coalition there mapped out plans for buses to San Francisco.

To help work on the April 19 mobilization or for more information call (415) 621-7326 or (415) 431-2572.

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Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and Pathfinder bookstores.

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ARIZONA: Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 3750 West McDowell Road #3. Zip: 85009. Tel: (602) 272-4026.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 2803 B St. Zip: 92102. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

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WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

They didn't work? — Among the papers found at the Marcos New York townhouse was a list of items purchased by Imelda Marcos at Hammacher Schlemmer, the gadgeteers. The purchases in-



Harry Ring

cluded two automatic paper shredders.

Honest Ed — His associates may have been stealing like cops,

but New York's Mayor Koch is personally clean, his friends assure. Meanwhile, it was disclosed that Joseph and Ralph Bernstein, front people for Marcos in New York real estate deals, contributed \$18,500 to Koch's 1985 campaign, plus 85 percent of the capital — \$205,000 — for the off-Broadway adaptation of his book, *Mayor*.

A steal — That diamond and emerald bracelet Imelda Marcos picked up during her 1978 New York shopping spree had a list price of \$1.5 million, but she walked away with it at a "special price" of \$1.15 million.

How to slit throats with a

smile? — Because the ability of the contras to communicate an ideological message is "somewhat stunted," says Gen. John Galvin, commander of U.S. forces in Central America, the Green Berets could not only teach them how to fight better but also ways to win political support.

Top secret? — It may have escaped your attention, but, by presidential proclamation, March 16 was Freedom of Information Day.

Poor but struggling — "It would be a mistake to think of us as a rich school." — Roderick MacDougall, treasurer of Harvard, which has doubled its endowment in the past five years to a

modest \$3 billion.

Perish the thought — An article on religion and sex therapy says the two are not incompatible, but there are problems. For instance, for Orthodox Jews, erotic imagery is okay, provided the subject is the spouse, not someone else.

They do it all for you — We never did figure out just what does go into a Big Mac, but one thing that's included for sure: the cost of an annual advertising budget that was \$302.7 million in 1985.

For freaked-out foremen? — "Stress-Management Vacations" offers respite in secluded but

glamorous settings, like a 60-foot schooner in the Caribbean, or a remote Maine wilderness lodge. Plus the company of a licensed psychologist.

The march of culture — A few scraps of wood and some mason jar rubber bands, and we used to put together a pretty effective rubber band zip gun. Now Abercrombie & Fitch, upscale gadgeteers, offers one shaped like a real piece, plus 10 surgical rubber bands. \$75.

Thought for the week — "So many saints for such a devil." — A Filipina on seeing the private chapel of the Marcos family in the presidential palace.

N.Y. tour by British activist on Irish struggle

NEW YORK — Fifty-three percent of the British population wants British withdrawal from Northern Ireland, Martin Collins reported here on March 19.

Collins, a leader of the British Labour Party's Labor Committee on Ireland and editor of its journal *Labour and Ireland*, said the polls show "British working people know they have no interest in continued British rule over Northern Ireland."

But, he told the March 19 Militant Labor Forum, "Britain will never leave Ireland voluntarily." The British-instigated partition of Ireland in 1921 "was crucial for preserving British control over both parts of Ireland." The government in the independent south, he said, is "thoroughly subordinate to British economic and political interests."

Collins argued that an end to British rule in Northern Ireland will come only from

pressure by the ranks of the British Labour Party in alliance with the independence movement in Ireland.

While in New York, on a six-city U.S. speaking tour, he testified at a New York City Council hearing March 19 on discrimination against Catholics in Northern Ireland.

Collins was extensively briefed by Patrick Doherty of the New York City Comptroller's Office, who had prepared a report outlining systematic discrimination against Catholics by subsidiaries of U.S. corporations.

He also took part in two radio shows and addressed a meeting with Peter King, Nassau County Comptroller.

In Albany, reports *Militant* correspondent David Wall, Collins told participants at a vigil for Irish political prisoners that "the only way peace will come to Ireland is for the British to get out."

The March 15 vigil at the State Capitol was sponsored by Irish Northern Aid, whose national publicity director, Martin Galvin, also addressed the gathering.

Collins, Galvin, and a local leader of Irish Northern Aid led the group's 200-per-

son contingent in the local St. Patrick's Day parade. The contingent was cheered by many of the 25,000 spectators.

In Albany, Collins was interviewed on a radio call-in show, where his advocacy of Irish freedom sparked such a response that listeners called in for an hour after he went off the air.

He also addressed the Militant Labor Forum in Albany and attended a reception in his honor, at which he exchanged views with local activists from the Irish and Palestinian solidarity movements and rank-and-file trade unionists.

Socialist auto workers meet, map campaign

BY JOE CALLAHAN

NEWARK, N.J. — Socialist members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) from around the United States met February 23 in Newark to discuss issues and developments facing the union.

A principal theme of the meeting was the strike by Hormel workers from United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota, against union-busting by the company.

Local P-9's union democracy and fighting determination to go out and get the solidarity they need to win were pointed to as examples for the whole labor movement in the United States. Participants in the meeting discussed activities by their union locals and others in support of P-9's strike. These included resolutions of support, donations from locals, adopting of P-9 families, plant-gate collections, workers removing Hormel products from plant cafeterias, and plans for strike support rallies in a number of cities.

Many of the unionists at the meeting had attended a national strike support rally February 15 in Austin.

In one of the two reports at the meeting, Andrew Pulley from Detroit said that the offensive against workers by U.S. auto

makers was rolling along, and that it had been shown that the date of expiration of union contracts doesn't matter.

Chrysler threatened to close its oldest plant, which is in Detroit, if big concessions weren't granted. Under tremendous pressure, a union meeting voted "to authorize negotiations."

American Motors threatened to close the Jeep plant in Toledo. As a result, the union canceled a strike vote, which had been scheduled in response to a number of problems at the plant. These included the company's use of a corporate seniority scheme.

General Motors is using the lure of building new plants designed to build the "GM 10" car to demand concessions from a number of UAW locals around the country. In Kansas City a contract with sweeping concessions was approved by a 2 to 1 vote.

At the NUMMI plant, the GM-Toyota joint venture in Fremont, California, the company moved the line speed up to 440 cars a day. After this, about 50 workers went to the company office demanding better treatment. The company threatened to close the plant "if there's any trouble."

At the LTV aerospace plant near Dallas, workers have been without a contract for

two years. Two unanimous strike votes were taken, but were ignored by union officials.

In the face of corporate demands for concessions, UAW President Owen Bieber's approach is increased cooperation with management. Opposition leaders in the union have not offered a real alternative to this.

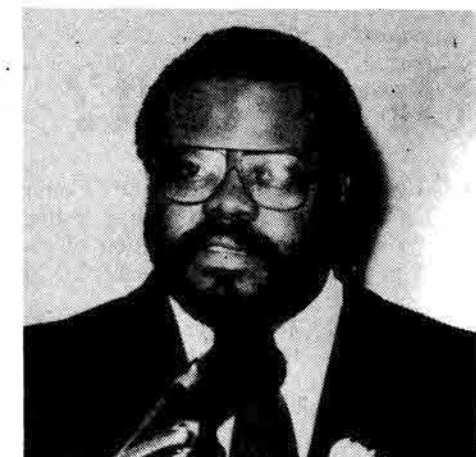
Solidarity with the revolutions in Central America and South Africa was another major topic. A meeting was held recently in solidarity with Central America in Kansas City. Labor support is growing for an April 19 antiwar march in San Francisco.

Participants at the meeting mentioned numerous union anti-apartheid activities, such as a march that took place in Newark. An upcoming tour by a leader of the newly formed South African trade union federation COSATU was also mentioned.

The unionists reported that in many auto plants, large numbers of Black workers observed Martin Luther King Day as a holiday and did not report to work. The UAW has designated Easter Monday on March 31 as Martin Luther King Day. Participants were urged to raise the struggle against apartheid in any activities on this day.

Several people at the meeting talked about support for the "National March for Women's Lives" on March 9 in Washington, D.C., and March 16 in Los Angeles. These demonstrations were for the right to safe, legal abortions.

The socialist union members also discussed participation in the \$100,000 Socialist Publication Fund drive, as well as the drive to sell 45,000 copies and 2,000 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.



Andrew Pulley reported on continuing offensive by U.S. automakers against workers.



Martin Collins

Militant/Marc Lichtman

Socialist IAM members discuss Hormel strike support

BY JOE DIDOS

OAKLAND — Socialists who are members of the International Association of Machinists met here February 22-23 and set an ambitious campaign to aid striking Hormel workers in Austin, Minnesota.

The socialists came from 20 cities across the country and worked in a broad range of aerospace and airline industries organized by the union.

A report by Sue Skinner of Los Angeles emphasized that it was time to "get bolder" and step up work in defense of the strikers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9.

Skinner proposed several things that could be done. These included inviting strikers to speak at union meetings, organizing plant-gate collections, going to Austin with coworkers to see the strike firsthand, getting local unions to support the Hormel boycott and participating in the "Adopt A P-9 Family" program.

How important a personal visit could be was explained by Jill Fein, who works at the Boeing plant in Seattle. She visited Austin in February. When she returned, P-9

strikers who were touring in the Seattle area asked her to join them in speaking to local unions.

A unionist from the General Dynamics plant in Dallas reported on a plant-gate collection there that netted several hundred dollars for the strikers.

In general, the socialists reported, there was a lot of interest among their coworkers in the Hormel strike. In some cases this led workers to challenge local union officials who were hesitant to support the strike.

At the General Dynamics plant in San Diego, for example, the local union executive board's recommendation not to help the strikers was overturned by the members. They voted to send a \$100 contribution to the strikers and some decided to donate a day's pay.

The broad appeal of this strike among working people, explained Greg Nelson, was because it "shows what a union can be." Nelson is a Machinist who works at Lockheed.

Stu Singer, who works at Eastern Airlines in Miami, added, "The Hormel workers are fighting back. You can't solidarize

with Nicaragua, you can't fight against concessions at Eastern if you don't understand how to fight," as the meatpackers are doing.

In addition to continuing to build support for the Hormel strike, the socialist workers also discussed the continuing campaign to defend the Nicaraguan revolution. One important aspect of this campaign, Skinner said in her report, was to continue to press for national demonstrations against U.S. intervention in Central America.

The socialists also discussed building support in the union for a woman's right to abortion. Marilee Taylor, who works at the Westinghouse plant in Sunnyvale, California, reported that she proposed that her local endorse the March 16 abortion rights action in Los Angeles at a union meeting. Her motion was seconded by an older male worker and the local decided to support the action.

Jill Fein said that when she raised defending women's right to abortion in her local, it was generally viewed as a legitimate union concern.

Fight is on for abortion rights

Through the "National March for Women's Lives: East Coast/West Coast," supporters of women's equality announced their determination to stand and fight for the right of women to choose safe, legal abortion.

The national march drew at least 100,000 in Washington, D.C., on March 9; and 25,000 in Los Angeles the following week on March 16. This makes it the largest action for women's rights in U.S. history. And nothing like these numbers have ever before been mobilized in defense of abortion rights.

This outpouring of support for legal abortion is testimony to how deeply women's lives are affected by this issue.

The right to control her own body is a woman's most fundamental right. Without the right to make the decisions regarding childbearing, women's equality is excluded.

That's why the right to choose abortion has come under such relentless and intensifying attack from church and state. In the 13 years since abortion was legalized as a result of mass pressure by the women's rights movement, the Congress, the courts, and state legislatures have moved to erode and restrict abortion rights.

The biggest blow was the 1977 congressional Hyde Amendment that cut Medicaid funding for abortions. State legislatures followed suit and today there are only 13 states plus the District of Columbia that provide funding for abortions. This discriminates against working-class women, and particularly strikes at Blacks, Latinas, and other victims of racism. The rights of young women have also come under attack.

Right-wing thugs bomb and burn abortion clinics, and harass and attack women entering the clinics. They are cheered on by the Catholic church hierarchy, fundamentalist preachers, and the White House. For too long, these attacks went unanswered.

But on March 9 and March 16 supporters of women's rights took the offensive once again.

Students from more than 400 campuses turned out in big numbers, vowing to defend the rights won in struggle by the women's liberation movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

The National March for Women's Lives was a demonstration for the rights of *all* women. One of the central themes of the actions was the demand to reinstate public funding, thus slamming the door on attempts to divide the struggle for women's rights.

A spirit of international solidarity marked the actions, which were called to coincide with International Women's Day. Participants reached out to women throughout the world, and especially to their sisters in Nicaragua and South Africa.

A big step forward was taken in involving Black organizations in the fight for abortion rights. Some 45

Black groups backed the marches, including many Black feminist groups, the National Urban League, National Council of Negro Women, the National Black Lesbian and Gay Task Force, and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Some important labor backing was won. The Coalition of Labor Union Women cosponsored the marches and organized a contingent. A good number of unions on the local and district levels endorsed the actions or worked to publicize them. But this was modest. Not a single international or national union backed the actions.

The labor involvement that was won in the course of building for the national march reflects the deep support for women's equality and safe, legal abortion that exists among working women and men. It comes despite the impact of a relentless ideological offensive led by the government and the Catholic church hierarchy against abortion, and the failure of most top union officials to take a stand on the issue.

The challenge to bring the labor movement into the fight for abortion rights is still ahead. The success of the National March for Women's Lives will have a big impact and will encourage unionists to fight to win their organizations to champion abortion rights and the cause of women's equality.

The National March for Women's Lives signaled that the fight is on to defend abortion rights. But it must be just the beginning of a sustained campaign to beat back the attacks, stand up to the right-wing thugs, and regain abortion rights for all women by reversing the Hyde Amendment and other restrictions on the right to abortion.

In many areas plans for local actions are already under way. In Seattle, Washington, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, local versions of the March for Women's Lives have been called. In Boston a "Walkathon for Women's Lives" has been scheduled for April.

On campuses and in union halls and community organizations, educational programs and discussions are being organized. Women's rights activists are discussing how to reach out and involve broader forces and larger numbers in ongoing actions to defend the clinics from the harassment and attacks by right-wing antiwoman fanatics.

Participants in the National March for Women's Lives voiced their strong conviction that it is necessary to stay in the streets and keep on fighting.

The success of the actions has given new confidence to those fighting for abortion rights. Supporters of women's equality must build on the tremendous momentum generated by the actions and continue to mobilize, reach out, and move forward.

4th International on origins of women's oppression

The following is excerpted from "Socialist Revolution and the Struggle for Women's Liberation," the resolution adopted by the Fourth International (a world Marxist organization) in 1979. It sets down the basic Marxist view of the origins and nature of women's oppression.

The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State by Frederick Engels is the classic Marxist work on this subject. It is available from Pathfinder Press, with an introduction by Evelyn Reed. Send

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

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The oppression of women is not determined by their biology, as many contend. Its origins are economic and social in character. Throughout the evolution of preclass and class society, women's childbearing function has always been the same. But their social status has not always been that of a degraded domestic servant, subject to man's control and command.

Before the development of class society, during the historical period that Marxists have traditionally referred to as primitive communism (subsistence societies), social production was organized communally and its product shared equally. There was therefore no exploitation or oppression of one group or sex by another because no material basis for such social relations existed.

The origin of women's oppression is intertwined with the transition from preclass to class society. The exact process by which this complex transition took place is a continuing subject of research and discussion even among those who subscribe to a materialist historical view. However, the fundamental lines along which women's oppression emerged are clear. The change in women's status developed along with the growing productivity of human labor based on agriculture, the domestication of animals, and stock raising; the rise of new divisions of labor, craftsmanship, and commerce; the private appropriation of an increasing social surplus; and the development of the possibility for some humans to prosper from the exploitation of the labor of others.

In these specific socioeconomic conditions, as the exploitation of human beings became profitable for a privileged few, women, because of their biological role in production, became valuable property. Like slaves and cattle, they were a source of wealth. They alone could produce new human beings whose labor power could be exploited. Thus the purchase of women by men, along with all rights to their future offspring, arose as one of the economic and social institutions of the new order based on private property. Women's primary social role was increasingly defined as domestic servant and childbearer.

Along with the private accumulation of wealth, the patriarchal family developed as an institution by which responsibility for the unproductive members of society — especially the young — was transferred from society as a whole to an identifiable individual or small group of individuals. It was the primary socioeconomic institution for perpetuating from one generation to the next the class divisions of society — divisions between those who possessed property and lived off the wealth produced by the labor of others, and those who, owning no property, had to work for others to live. The destruction of the egalitarian and communal traditions and structures of primitive communism was essential for the rise of an exploiting class and its accelerated private accumulation of wealth.

This was the origin of the patriarchal family. In fact, the word family itself, which is still used in the Latin-based languages today, comes from the original Latin *famulus*, which means household slave, and *familia*, the totality of slaves belonging to one man.

Women ceased to have an independent place in social production. Their productive role was determined by the family to which they belonged, by the man to whom they were subordinate. This economic dependence determined the second-class social status of women, on which the cohesiveness and continuity of the patriarchal family has always depended. If women could simply take their children and leave, without suffering any economic or social hardship, the patriarchal family would not have survived through the millennia.

The patriarchal family and the subjugation of women thus came into existence along with the other institutions of emerging class society in order to buttress nascent class divisions and perpetuate the private accumulation of wealth. The state, with its police and armies, laws and courts, enforced this relationship. Ruling-class ideology, including religion, arose on this basis and played a vital role in justifying the degradation of the female sex.

Stop the nuclear bomb tests!

The explosion of yet another nuclear bomb in the Nevada desert March 22 signified the Reagan administration's implacable opposition to the Soviet Union's proposal for a test moratorium. It testifies to a grim determination to press ahead with the war drive.

The decision to detonate the bomb was carried out despite a last-minute appeal by a bipartisan group of 63 members of Congress to call it off.

Prior to the blast, Moscow had announced it would continue a self-imposed test moratorium beyond its March 31 deadline if Washington did not test. The government of the Soviet Union began its unilateral moratorium eight months ago and has urged the United States government to follow suit. The day of the Nevada test, a State Department spokesman flatly rejected the moratorium offer.

The tests are not only a menace in that they promote Washington's war drive, but they are an immediate health danger, despite being conducted underground.

This one had to be delayed 15 minutes because of high winds. Such winds spread even further the lethal radia-

tion leaks that occur with these tests. A government spokesperson assured the test went off without incident. He observed it from a distance of 10 miles.

Pushing ahead with the deadly tests defies the will of masses of people in this country and worldwide. People have demonstrated literally by the millions against the bomb.

In response to the present blast, the Soviet government declared, and rightly so, that it showed "great contempt for world public opinion."

Registering their realization that the test exposes Washington's responsibility for the war danger, members of both houses of Congress have introduced bills that they say would bar financing of further tests. The House bill has 84 sponsors. "It would be a tragedy if we allow the initiative for peace to fall solely into the hands of the Soviet Union," said House majority leader James Wright (D-Tex.).

A public outcry is needed against these dangerous, warlike tests. We should demand that the tests be halted.

Drug test? Witness says 'No'

The proposal by the President's Commission on Organized Crime for mandatory drug testing of all federal workers is an intolerable invasion of personal privacy aimed at intimidating and weakening the democratic rights of all working people.

And recently, a member of the presidential commission had a perfectly natural response that drove the point home to the hilt.

Rodney Smith, a member of the commission, was asked to testify on the issue before a House subcommittee.

He was asked to take the drug test before testifying. The chairperson of the committee, Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.), told Smith, "The chair will require you to

go to the men's room under the direct observation of a male member of the subcommittee staff to urinate in this specimen bottle."

Smith angrily said no, he had not been warned that such a test would be necessary for him to testify. He would not accept such an intrusion on his rights.

Exactly so. He might well have added that the U.S. Constitution is supposed to guarantee against such assaults on personal privacy. The remaining question, of course, is: Do millions of federal workers have any less rights than Rodney Smith? As Representative Ackerman noted before permitting Smith to testify, without taking the test, they would not get any warning either. For them, it would be obligatory.

South Africa: a revolution for Black land rights

Apartheid's Great Land Theft, the Struggle for the Right to Farm in South Africa. By Ernest Harsch. Pathfinder Press, New York. \$1.25, 50 pages.

BY FRED FELDMAN

"We are fighting for the land, as we have for 333 years." That was how Mannoko Nchwe, a representative

IN REVIEW

of the South African National Union of Mineworkers who toured this country last fall, summed up a central aspect of the fight against the racist apartheid system during a meeting with Alabama coal miners.

The story of this struggle for the land is told in "Apartheid's Great Land Theft: the Struggle for the Right to Farm in South Africa" by Ernest Harsch.

Harsch is managing editor of the biweekly socialist newsmagazine *Intercontinental Press*, for which he has written frequently on South Africa. In 1978 he visited South Africa, as well as other countries in Africa.

Harsch's pamphlet lays bare the connection between the suppression of the African farmers and peasantry and such basic aspects of apartheid as migrant labor, pass laws, and the Bantustan system. Without the suppression of Black farming, the brutal superexploitation of Blacks that characterizes the apartheid system could not exist.

As Harsch shows, the land theft has also inspired powerful resistance. The facts he marshals demonstrate the correctness of his description of the revolutionary struggle in South Africa as "a revolution for Black land rights."

The facts in this pamphlet should be part of the arsenal of every anti-apartheid fighter. It deals with aspects of life in apartheid South Africa that are largely ignored by the U.S. capitalist media.

"From the very beginning," Harsch writes, "the European settlers' land grabbing was intertwined with their desire for cheap, subservient labor. They not only wanted the Africans' land, they also wanted Africans to work for them."

When gold and diamonds were discovered in South Africa in the late 19th century, the white rulers moved to

sharply increase restrictions on Africans' right to farm in order to force many to accept jobs in the mines. The expropriation of the African farmers was extended in 1913 when Africans were barred from owning land in all but 7.9 percent (later increased to 13.7 percent) of South Africa.

"What is wanted," explained the president of the Chamber of Mines in 1912, "is surely a policy that would establish once and for all that outside special reserves, the ownership of the land must be in the hands of the white race, and that the surplus of young [African] men, instead of squatting on the land in idleness and spreading out over unlimited areas, must earn their living by working for a wage."

The expropriation of many Black farmers and their forced removal to the "reserves" — now known as Bantustans — made it possible for the white rulers to establish the brutal migrant labor system. "The families of these workers were forced to stay behind in the impoverished reserves, while the workers themselves labored under restrictive contracts for specified periods of time," Harsch writes. "All their movements and residency rights were strictly controlled through repressive measures such as the pass laws, which required them to carry an internal passport on them at all times. When their contracts were over, or they became injured or too old to work, they were dispatched back to the reserves."

With the coming to power of the National Party in 1948, with its program of preserving the white rulers' domination through expanding and institutionalizing apartheid (segregation), measures against Black farming were intensified.

Millions of African farmers, sharecroppers, tenants, and others in farming areas were expelled from areas designated "white" and forced into the Bantustans. In the KwaNdebele Bantustan, 200,000 people who had been expelled from areas reserved for whites were allotted one-sixteenth of an acre each.

Within the Bantustans, the government organized the confiscation or slaughter of cattle and reduced grazing lands. Many Africans who held small plots of land were expropriated, sometimes for the benefit of white farmers or of Africans who supported the regime.

Indians and Coloureds, who, together with the Africans, make up the Black population, also face restrictions

on their landholding rights, forced removals, and other attacks.

As a result of overcrowding and the refusal of government help to peasants in the Bantustans, many Africans there are landless. All but a few of those who till the land work less than 9 acres. The average white farm is more than 2,470 acres.

One result of the land theft, Harsch shows, is widespread malnutrition and disease — especially devastating among Black children. Harsch quotes Chief Sabata Dalindyebo, a traditional leader of the Tembu people in the Transkei Bantustan, who was forced into exile by the regime: "The people are starving. Famine is widespread and will become worse. The people have no land."

Harsch cites many examples of the resistance of South African Blacks to the expropriation of their land. These include peasant revolts in the Bantustans and the continuing fight of Black farmers in the "Black spots" against the government's attempts to seize their land and remove them to the Bantustans.

The background provided by Harsch explains why the Freedom Charter, the revolutionary democratic program adopted at the 1955 Congress of the People, places such importance on the battle for land and for the right to farm. A consistent struggle for this program has helped place the African National Congress, which played a leading part in the 1955 meeting, at the head of the revolutionary struggle in South Africa today.

The Freedom Charter's demands that "the land shall be shared among those who work it" and "all shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose" are inspiring tens of thousands of anti-apartheid fighters in South Africa today.

The facts presented in this valuable pamphlet explain why the representative of the National Union of Mineworkers placed so much stress on the struggle for land in South Africa.

"This issue is of particular importance to Black workers," Harsch writes. "They were forcibly proletarianized through the theft of their land and the regime's denial to them of any other source of livelihood. In a democratic South Africa, some may wish to return to the land, to be free independent commodity producers. A deep-going agrarian reform would thus immeasurably strengthen the worker-peasant alliance that is already being forged in struggle against the apartheid state."

LETTERS

Friendly gesture

Two friends of mine wearing a "Fight for my union, damn right I will" T-shirt were enjoying a beer in a bar the other night when one of three young men approached them to say that one of their friends would fight them over that T-shirt. It was a friendly gesture, and they said to send the guy over.

All five got into a conversation and, as it turns out, two of them were expert debaters on the Emory University debating team. The third, the one who would fight, was awed by the conversation.

The two debaters, it turns out, were quite skilled in debating the virtues of socialism over capitalism. "We never lose," they said. "We debate Harvard, Yale, all the big Ivy League schools, and we never lose!"

They then proceeded to discuss their sources of information. They named a few — the *Nation* magazine, etc. But the best of all is, of course, the *Militant*. "That really gets 'em!"

Goes to show, the *Militant* does get around.

Kate Daher

Atlanta, Georgia

'The Color Purple'

I thought "The Color Purple" was well-acted and, for the most part, stayed close to the story line of the novel — one of the best I've ever read. But I think the differences between the film and novel are worth noting.

First is the changed character of Sophia. In the movie, she is a bully. But in the book, Sophia is Celie's first glimpse of a woman fighting back. She is not a bully, but a woman alive and full of love, who demands love and respect in return.

In the film, Sophia comes out looking like someone who likes to fight and boss people around. When she throws a punch at the mayor, it's another in Sophia's "at

it again." It clouds the fact that her pride, not her willingness to throw a punch, is what got her into trouble in the white man's world.

Another major change is the depiction of the relationship between Celie and Shug Avery. Celie has desired Shug ever since she first saw her picture, and they eventually become lovers. While some of this is indicated in the film, the central role that the relationship plays in Celie's development is eliminated.

Some suggest director Spielberg was going for a GP rating by playing down the nature of Celie's and Shug's relationship. Obviously, rape, incest, and wife-beating have no effect on that rating. I'm not suggesting that scenes like that should be censored, but I question why women finding love with other women is taboo when violence against women by men is not.

I do think the film is one of the few of its caliber, both in terms of acting and its rare, nearly all-Black cast that allows the characters to be real people. But my feminist heart registers a protest against the homophobia and fear of women's strength that the altering of the original story demonstrates.

Diana Scalera
New York, N.Y.

Excellent socialist paper

I want to thank you for sending your newspaper to me every week.

I also want to state that working people should be proud of having such a newspaper as the *Militant* — a newspaper that represents their interest. Congratulations, for you make the *Militant* what it is — an excellent socialist newspaper.

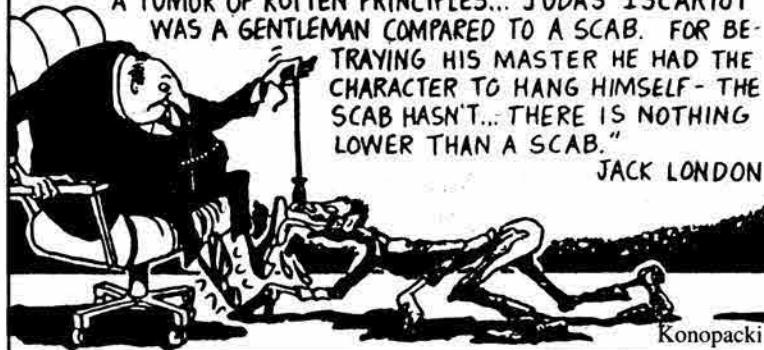
Right now, I am the secretary of education of Hispanics United for Progress (HUD), an inmates organization at this facility. Our purpose is to provide the Hispanic population of the facility a means

THE SCAB

"AFTER GOD HAD FINISHED THE RATTLESNAKE, THE TOAD, AND THE VAMPIRE, HE HAD SOME AWFUL STUFF LEFT WITH WHICH HE MADE A SCAB."

"A SCAB IS A TWO-LEGGED ANIMAL WITH A CORKSCREW SOUL, A WATERLOGGED BRAIN, AND A COMBINATION BACKBONE MADE OF JELLY AND GLUE. WHERE OTHERS HAVE HEARTS, HE CARRIES A TUMOR OF ROTTEN PRINCIPLES... JUDAS ISCARIOT WAS A GENTLEMAN COMPARED TO A SCAB. FOR BETRAYING HIS MASTER HE HAD THE CHARACTER TO HANG HIMSELF - THE SCAB HASN'T... THERE IS NOTHING LOWER THAN A SCAB."

JACK LONDON



to develop and participate in programs beneficial to the group.

A prisoner

Stormville, New York

Appreciate coverage

I appreciated the New York 8+ and Susan Rosenberg trial coverage. It would be nice if you could try to cover anti-imperialist fighter Marilyn Buck's trial coming up. She has fought in solidarity with the same principles as the N.Y. 8+ and could use some unbiased (or even pro) coverage.

Carl Ecland

Norway, Oregon

Philippines

Two leaders of Kilusang Magbubkid ng Pilipinas (KMP), the Peasant Movement of the Philippines, toured here in early March. Felicisimo Patayan, vice-chairman of the KMP, and Francisco Lara, executive director of the Philippine Peasant Institute, are speaking to farm workers and farm groups. The main purpose of their tour was to explain the conditions and problems that face Filipino peasants.

They also met with Filipino-Americans and other opponents of the old Marcos dictatorship.

Patayan and Lara said 70 percent of the Filipino population works the land. The big majority of these Filipinos own no land of their own. Most of those who have a piece of land don't own enough to provide sufficient food for their families. Poverty is endemic.

U.S.-based multinationals such as Cargill, Massey-Ferguson, Del Monte, Dunlop, and Dole directly own 10 percent of the cultivable land in the Philippines.

Lara pointed out that Cargill is producing yellow corn for feed. All of this is for export, as there is no livestock-raising in the Philippines. This is a slap in the face to the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos who are starving and demanding farmland to produce food.

The KMP was founded last July through the merger of 52 regional and provincial peasant and farm worker organizations. It is affiliated with Bayan, a coalition formed to oppose the Marcos regime.

Gary Boyers
Toledo, Ohio

Political prisoner

As an inmate incarcerated in one of New York State's correctional facilities, with over 10 years of direct contact and experience with the "system," I have never, until the past three years, considered myself a political prisoner.

However, after examining the corrupt policies, incompetent officials and prison guards, and the failure of DOCS to truly reform and rehabilitate offenders, I can now see the political influences that perpetuate the vicious cycle of endless imprisonment for the poor, Black, and minority sector which inhabits these prisons.

The Prison Subscription Fund, which allows the free distribution of the *Militant*, has also added to my enlightenment concerning political issues which have a critical effect on the unemployed, the uneducated, and those who are denied equal access to the advantages of American society.

Thank you for your kindness and your efforts in the struggle.

A prisoner

Wallkill, New York

Correction

An article in the March 28 *Militant* on the abortion rights demonstration in Los Angeles incorrectly reported that workers in Hormel's plants in Ottumwa, Iowa, and Fremont, Nebraska, were on strike. These workers are not on strike. They were fired by Hormel for honoring striking United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9's picket line at their plants. Later, the company locked out the workers at its Ottumwa plant.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Gay rights bill wins in New York

A gain for democratic rights of all working people

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — A 15-year battle for passage of a lesbian and gay rights bill has finally been won here. On March 20, the New York City Council voted 21 to 14 in favor of the bitterly resisted statute.

Pressure in favor of the bill continued to mount until the very day of voting. With 18 votes required for passage, proponents of the measure had announced a day earlier that they had 19 votes — if they all showed up and none switched. All 19 were present and voting, and two additional last minute votes were gained.

The measure bans discrimination in jobs, housing, and public accommodations. It amends and buttresses an existing statute against discrimination on the basis of race, sex, or religion.

Its passage is particularly impressive and encouraging in that it comes at a time when hysteria is being promoted around the AIDS issue in order to intensify prejudice and discrimination against homosexuals.

Adoption of the bill is a blow against such discrimination. And it strengthens the fight for democratic rights by women, oppressed nationalities, and all working people.

Initially introduced in 1971, the bill is said to be the longest debated piece of legislation in New York history. It was opposed with particular ferocity by the Catholic hierarchy and Orthodox Jewish groups. The tenor of their contribution to the debate was summarized in the placard of an opponent of the bill in front of City

Hall: "God sent AIDS to punish gays — Jewish Moral Committee."

But the rabid right could not claim principal credit for 15 years of blocking passage of the bill.

During that entire period, the bill only got to the floor of the city council once, in 1974, and was defeated.

In all the other years, it was simply buried in committee.

Passage was won in battle. Demands for its enactment have been an important theme of lesbian and gay rights demonstrations, and organizations have lobbied persistently.

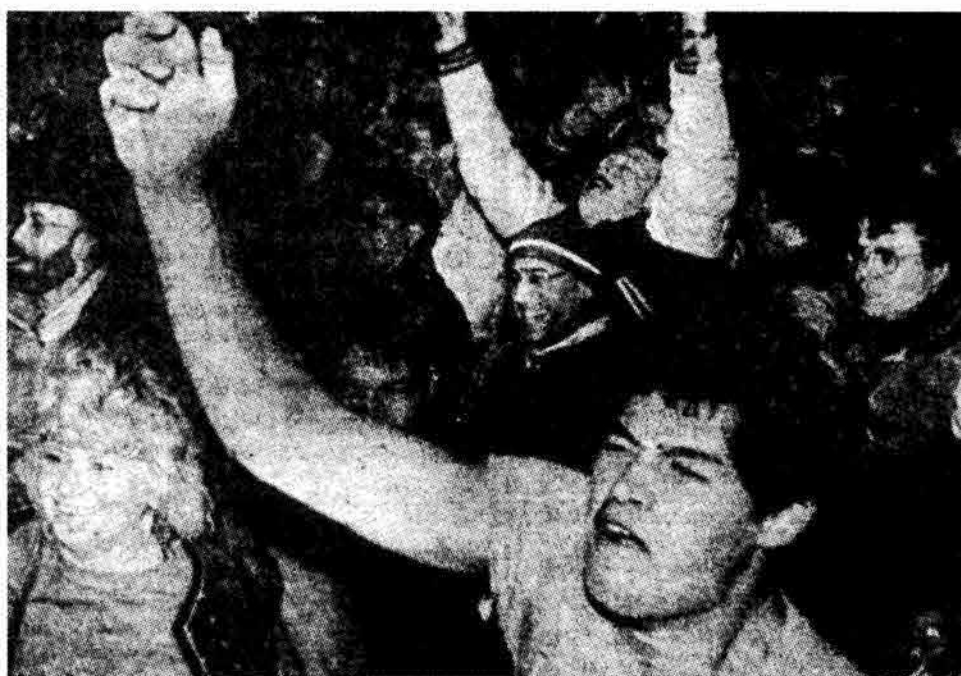
The evening before the council vote, several thousand people rallied in City Hall Park. An earlier right-wing protest against the bill drew a few hundred.

At the prights rally, the depth of the sentiment for the measure was apparent in the many hand-lettered signs and in the determined chants.

It was also manifest when Mayor Edward Koch, a supporter of the measure, spoke. Referring to the pending public meeting of the city council, Koch admonished the demonstrators to conduct themselves in a "gracious, responsible" way.

Also, he asserted, they should understand the "frustrations and fears" of opponents of the rights bill. The crowd responded with cries of anger.

Throughout the cold night that followed, several dozen people participated in a candlelight vigil.



Crowd in New York City's Greenwich Village celebrates city council's passage of bill banning discrimination against gays and lesbians.

At 8:00 in the morning, people were already waiting in line to get into the council session slated to begin at 1:30 in the afternoon. Only a fraction of those who lined up during the morning were able to get into the council chamber.

And that evening, after the bill was passed, a thousand celebrants gathered at Sheridan Square in 20° weather to express

their jubilation.

Most people at the same time recognize that the bill is a limited one. Victims of discrimination in housing, jobs, or public accommodations have recourse to filing a complaint with the city's Human Rights Commission and the right to take court action against offenders. The commission

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April 19 California antiwar march builds

BY STEVEN FUCHS

SAN FRANCISCO — As the Reagan administration continues to press Congress for more aid to the *contras*, the April 19 Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice is winning more support.

According to Alameda County Supervisor John George, the march will be "a congress of the streets."

The demonstration is demanding: no U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean; end U.S. support for South African apartheid; jobs and justice, not war; and freeze and reverse the nuclear arms race.

The San Francisco coalition was first organized in response to a national call early last year for demonstrations around these four demands. Nearly 125,000 people marched in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco on April 20, 1985.

This year's mobilization has already won the support of a wide range of unions, Central America and anti-apartheid groups, Black community leaders, Latino organizations, gay and lesbian groups, and women's, students', and peace groups.

Becky Cohen of the Nicaraguan Information Center told the *Militant*, "For us the concept of peace, jobs, and justice means Nicaragua."

"The \$100 million proposed contra aid should be used to fund social programs and not contra terrorism."

The U.S.-sponsored war against Nicaragua has left 14,000 Nicaraguans dead and 250,000 homeless. Cohen warns that the U.S. is heading toward even deeper military involvement.

The Mobilization held a news conference on March 12. John Henning, executive secretary of the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO, said that the Reagan administration has "militarized the United States."

"We sent troops to Grenada and mined the harbors of Nicaragua. Now we're

threatening the occupation of Nicaragua." Labor was a big part of last year's mobilization, Henning said, and will be again this year.

Sister Margaret Cafferty told the news conference she was familiar with the work of Reagan's contra "freedom fighters." She had traveled to Nicaragua on a work brigade to help harvest coffee. An elderly couple had been her hosts. They were subsequently kidnapped by *contras* and their mutilated bodies turned up later.

Carlos Muñoz, a member of the Faculty Committee on Human Rights in El Salvador, said, "The time has come for Latinos and Blacks especially to stand up against this war. We would be in the front lines of this disaster if U.S. troops invade Nicaragua."

George Wesolek of the Archdiocese Justice and Peace Commission, said that on his recent trip to El Salvador he witnessed that government's air war against the civilian population. "Every day tons of bombs

are dropped on children, women, and old people, and it is paid for by our tax dollars."

County Supervisor George, who is also a leader of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, told the news conference that anti-apartheid activists will mobilize for the march.

Endorsers of the march include the AFL-CIO labor councils in San Francisco. Sac-

Continued on Page 16

TWA strikers reach out for support

BY DON DAVIS

NEW YORK — Striking TWA flight attendants can lead in revitalizing the labor movement, a leader of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants told a spirited rally here March 23.

"We're in the public eye. Let's use it," Karen Eitelberg told a crowd of 200 strikers and supporters.

Eitelberg told the rally, "There is a conspiracy in this country of senior corporate management to make the working class poor and the poor destitute and scared enough to take any job no matter whose it is."

She and other union officials who spoke in solidarity with the TWA strike explained that to counter this union-busting strategy, labor must help raise the wages of all workers.

"We've got to reach our hands down to the folks at the bottom and give them some dignity," said Bill Henning of Communications Workers of America Local 1180.

This includes workers in other countries and is linked to the question of not aiding the *contras* fighting the Nicaraguan government, he said.

"What Reagan is trying to do is make the

climate in Nicaragua safe for our shops to run away to," Henning said.

"There aren't any shops running away to Nicaragua today. They are running to El Salvador where we're spending millions to prop up an illegitimate government."

Other speakers included Dan Kane of Teamsters Local 111, Harold Mendlowitz of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1202, which organizes Greyhound workers, and Bill Love of Musicians Local 802.

Following the rally, a caravan of some 30 cars took a leisurely drive past the TWA terminal at nearby Kennedy airport, slowing down operations there.

BY JANE HARRIS

BEDFORD, N.Y. — Some 200 uniformed TWA flight attendants visited this wealthy suburb of New York City March 22 to call on their multimillionaire boss, Carl Icahn. Their calling cards were large picket signs from the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA) union.

Escorted by bodyguards, TWA President Icahn left his stone mansion and came to the cast iron gates to talk to the strikers.

Many flight attendants wore their TWA wings upside down, along with buttons reading "I am a breadwinner." These were in response to earlier statements by Icahn that the TWA women were not primary breadwinners and could afford to take wage and benefit cuts without being hurt.

One flight attendant told Icahn she had just signed up for welfare and found when she subtracted child-care costs for her seven-year-old from Icahn's proposed wages, she would be better off on welfare. "And besides," she told him, "I'm a workaholic — I don't want to go on welfare."

Other strikers tried to educate Icahn on the importance of maintaining existing work rules for the sake of safety. But Icahn kept coming back to the same thing — "You guys tell me how I can save \$100 million."

Some flight attendants quickly got disgusted with this complaint and walked away.

After confronting Icahn, the flight attendants moved to set up a picket line on the main road, holding up signs reading "Baby Doc, Marcos," with the words crossed out, and then "Icahn."